

No. of no-show airport security screeners soars in shutdown

By JEFF MARTIN and DAVID KOENIG

ROENTG
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The number of airport security screeners failing to show up for work around the country is soaring as the partial government shutdown goes into its fourth week.

No-shows among screeners jumped Sunday and again Monday, when the Transportation Security Administration reported a national absence rate of 7.6 percent compared with 3.2 percent on a comparable day a year ago.

ay a year ago.
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Security lines at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta stretch more than an hour long amid the partial federal shutdown, causing some travelers to miss flights, Monday morning, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

The advertisement features a scenic view of a Caribbean bay with sailboats and a green hillside in the background. On the left, the Victorinox Swiss Army logo is displayed with the text 'MAKERS OF THE ORIGINAL SWISS ARMY KNIFE' and 'ESTABLISHED 1884'. In the center, three Victorinox Alliance Sport Chronograph watches are shown side-by-side. The first watch on the left has a black dial and a black rubber strap. The middle watch has a blue dial and a stainless steel link bracelet. The third watch on the right has a black dial and a brown leather strap. The text 'ALLIANCE SPORT CHRONOGRAPH' and '241817' is printed to the right of the watches. The bottom of the advertisement features a red banner with the text 'MAKERS OF THE ORIGINAL SWISS ARMY KNIFE' and 'ESTABLISHED 1884'.

Trump's AG nominee: Mueller should be allowed to finish work

By ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee for attorney general will tell senators "it is vitally important" that special counsel Robert Mueller be allowed to complete his Russia investigation, and said he believes Congress and the public should learn the results, according to remarks prepared for his confirmation hearing.

William Barr also insisted in testimony he'll deliver Tuesday to the Senate Judiciary Committee that Trump never sought any promises, assurances or commitments before selecting him to be the country's chief law enforcement officer.

In releasing written testimony ahead of his hearing, the Justice Department moved to pre-empt the most significant questions Barr is likely to face from Democrats on the panel — including whether he can oversee without bias or interference the final stages of Mueller's probe into potential ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign, and whether he will permit the findings to be



Attorney General nominee William Barr departs after a meeting with Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 in Washington.

Associated Press

made public.

"I believe it is in the best interest of everyone — the President, Congress, and, most importantly, the American people — that this matter be resolved by allowing the Special Counsel to complete his work," Barr said.

He described Mueller, a

former Justice Department colleague, as a friend he has known personally and professionally for 30 years. Mueller headed the department's criminal division while Barr served as attorney general from 1991 to 1993.

The special counsel is required to confidentially report his findings to the Justice Department. Barr stopped short of directly pledging to release Mueller's conclusions, but he expressed general support for disclosing the findings, whatever they may be. "For that reason, my goal will be to provide as much transparency as I can consistent with the law," Barr said. "I can assure you that, where judgments are to be made by me, I will make those judgments based solely on the law and will let no personal, political, or other improper interests influence my decisions."

The remarks in support of Mueller are intended to reassure Democratic senators troubled by Barr's past comments on the special counsel's probe, including an unsolicited memo he sent the Justice Department last year criticizing the inquiry into whether the president had obstructed justice.

He also previously said the president's firing of FBI di-

rector James Comey was appropriate and that the Mueller prosecution team, repeatedly criticized by Trump for including prosecutors who have made political stances to Democratic candidates, should have had more "balance."

The mere fact that Barr felt compelled to deny any sort of commitment or pledge to Trump reflects the delicate and unusual circumstance he finds himself in. He would serve a president who requested loyalty from an FBI director he later fired and who berated — and eventually forced out — his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, for recusing himself from the Russia investigation.

Barr's supervisory role in the Russia probe may be especially important since Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller and has overseen his day-to-day work, expects to leave the Justice Department soon after Barr is confirmed. It is not clear how much of the investigation will be left by then. Barr would replace acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, who declined to recuse himself from the investigation — despite the advice of a Justice Department ethics official and calls from Democrats who cited Whitaker's past critical comments on the probe.

Barr's June memo to top Justice Department officials criticized as "fatally misconceived" the theory of obstruction that Mueller appeared to be pursuing. He said presidents cannot be criminally investigated for actions they are permitted to take under the Constitution, such as firing officials who work for them, just because of a subjective determination that they may have had a corrupt state of mind.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec has said Barr wrote the memo on his own initiative and relying only on publicly available information. She said senior ethics officials were consulted about the memo and have advised that it presents no conflict of interest to Barr's work as attorney general. □

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NO SHOW

Continued from Front

Monday marked the first business day after screeners did not receive a paycheck for the first time since the shutdown began.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest, some passengers waited more than an hour to get through checkpoints. The airport reported the long lines on its website Monday morning, showing the hour-plus waits at all three checkpoints in the domestic terminal.

"It's chaos out here," passenger Vincent Smith said as he stood in a line that snaked through the Atlanta airport's atrium and baggage claim areas. "This line, I've been here about 15 minutes and it has moved 2 feet."

TSA is working with the Atlanta airport and airlines "to maximize all available operational resources at the airport," TSA spokesman Jim Gregory said.

The agency is working with airports and airlines nationwide to consolidate operations and get the most out of resources, Gregory added. He declined to provide absentee figures for Atlanta or other airports, saying that would compromise security by exposing possible vulnerabilities.

"Screeners will not do anything to compromise or change their security procedures," he said.

But Smith said he could relate to government workers who don't show up so they can find other ways to make ends meet.

"If I was a government worker, yes, I would probably call in and try to do something else because creditors don't care if you're furloughed or not," Smith said.

"They just want to get paid and with a family of six, you have to do what you have to."

Atlanta's wait times



Customer Service representative Magda Lambo, center, directs travelers as security lines at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta stretch more than an hour long amid the partial federal shutdown, causing some travelers to miss flights, Monday morning, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

stretched well beyond what the TSA says most passengers have encountered since the shutdown began. Delta Air Lines, the dominant carrier in Atlanta, and other airlines said they were advising passengers to get to the airport at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours before international trips. A Delta spokeswoman said airline employees were pitching in by helping manage TSA lines.

TSA said that it screened 1.97 million people on Sunday and that 99.1 percent waited less than 30 minutes, and 93.1 percent less than 15 minutes. Precheck lines for people who pay a fee for expedited screening averaged less than five minutes, TSA said.

A combination of a busy Monday travel day combined with some security lines being closed led to the long lines, airport spokes-

man Andrew Gobeil said. He said he didn't know how many security lines were down.

A statement from TSA attributed the long waits in Atlanta to "anticipated high volume."

Meanwhile, TSA said it would move officers around the country to deal with local shortages. A few airports are making changes to deal with the shortage of screeners.

At Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, a security checkpoint and ticket counter that were shuttered Sunday afternoon in Terminal B will remain closed through Tuesday, a spokesman said.

The terminal handles United Express flights. Passengers must go through checkpoints in other terminals, then walk or take a train to planes parked at Terminal B. A spokesman for United Airlines said flights were not

affected.

Miami International Airport closed one of its concourses for part of Saturday and Sunday, shifting about a dozen afternoon and evening flights each day to other concourses so that TSA workers could adequately staff the other checkpoints. Airport spokesman Greg Chin said TSA was staffing the Concourse G checkpoint on Monday, but airport officials were monitoring the situation and would make more adjustments if necessary.

An official with the union representing TSA workers said TSA canceled employees' vacation requests about a week ago.

"Since nobody is getting paid, (TSA officials) don't want them to take annual leave," said Cairo D'Almeida, president of a government workers' union local in Seattle. He said he was asking local food

banks if they can help the workers.

Gregory, the TSA spokesman said that was not a TSA decision.

Under guidelines from the federal Office of Personnel Management, paid time off is canceled for employees, including the airport screeners, who are exempt from certain federal labor laws.

In Atlanta, Monday's long wait times come with less than three weeks remaining before the city hosts one of the world's biggest sporting events. Super Bowl 53 on Feb. 3 is expected to bring hordes of travelers to Atlanta for the game and days of concerts and related events.

"We're confident that we will be as efficient and as welcoming as people expect the city of Atlanta to be here at Hartsfield-Jackson for the Super Bowl," Gobeil said. □

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2020 Democratic primary set to intensify

By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — After months of speculation and secrecy, the 2020 presidential primary season is about to explode.

With several Democrats already in the race, a half dozen more are locking down final travel, staffing and strategy to launch White House bids in the coming weeks. While plans may change, the announcements are expected to come in waves, the first featuring a group of ambitious Senate Democrats including New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, California Sen. Kamala Harris and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who face pressure to join the race after Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's entrance two weeks ago.

The second wave will likely feature political heavyweights like former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg and former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, whose advisers believe they have sufficient financial backing and name recognition to join the crowded field on their terms later in the first quarter should they decide to run.

"It is really starting to heat up," said Deidre DeJear, who lost her bid for Iowa secretary of state last fall, but remains an influential figure in the state's first-in-the-nation Democratic caucuses. She was among a group of Iowa Democratic women who sat down with Warren last week in suburban Des Moines.

"I feel like Warren put people in a place as if to say 'come on, step up,'" DeJear said in a subsequent inter-



In this Jan. 8, 2019, photo, clouds roll over the White House, Tuesday Jan. 8, 2019, in Washington.
Associated Press

view. "If you're in it, you're in it. No reason to wait now." Interviews with senior aides for several top Democratic prospects, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning, indicate the waiting game is almost over.

Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who left office last week, added foreign policy adviser Jeremy Rosner, finance director Dan Sorenson and a senior communications adviser Marie Logsden to his political action committee in recent days, according to an aide. Hickenlooper is traveling to Los Angeles this week to meet with donors and has scheduled visits to early voting states later in the month.

The 66-year-old term-limited governor and former businessman, who remains largely unknown to many primary voters, does not plan to launch his campaign before March.

Sanders, the lone 2020 prospect who ran in 2016,

has interviewed close to 20 people to fill senior positions such as campaign manager and directors of policy, communications and his field program. A senior aide said the hiring process has been particularly focused on adding diversity — in both gender and race — that didn't exist in his last presidential campaign.

The aide said allegations of sexual harassment between Sanders' former campaign staff had no impact on the timeline of an announcement, which is not expected before the end of the month. Despite his challenges, Sanders is sitting on a war chest of roughly \$15 million and an active nationwide network. In a show of early force, liberal activists hosted hundreds of house parties across the nation on Saturday to cheer on a second Sanders run.

Meanwhile, O'Rourke, 46, is taking steps toward a run, but an aide said he's not

expected to announce until next month at the earliest. However, he's traveling outside Texas to introduce himself to voters in the coming weeks. Oprah is scheduled to interview him in New York City next month.

The first states on the primary calendar are not on O'Rourke's immediate itinerary, but that's not stopping supporters in Iowa and South Carolina from launching draft efforts. A leader of South Carolina's "Draft Beto" movement, former Democratic National Committee member Boyd Brown, said he's having conversations with Democratic donors, local officials and potential staffers, to help stave off commitments to other candidates as the field starts to take shape. "We might be taking a shot in the dark, but we're building an apparatus that we can hand off to an actual campaign should he run," Brown said in an interview. "We're treating this like a

presidential campaign until told otherwise."

A more seasoned political star, Biden remains silent about his plans. The 76-year-old Democrat has done little to build teams on the ground in key states, instead sticking to the schedule of huddling with aides while he moves closer to a decision.

While it may seem early, the sheer size of the likely field makes it difficult for some candidates to wait much longer. Upward of two dozen high-profile Democrats could run for a chance to deny President Donald Trump a second term.

The first Democratic primary debate will take place in June, while the first primary contest is likely a year away. With a field this big, there's only so many donors and top staffers to go around.

"At this point the cycle, it's a race for money and talent, and unless your name is Joe Biden or Beto O'Rourke, you've gotta get in soon if you want attract either one of those things," said former Obama strategist Stephanie Cutter, who has been offering advice to some contenders.

Gillibrand, 52, joins some of her Senate colleagues on a more aggressive timeline. She's already identified a likely location for a campaign headquarters, added staff and planned trips to key states.

The Democratic senator is eyeing a headquarters in Troy, New York, a small upstate city on the Hudson River. Gillibrand, who has made headlines with her work against sexual violence — and occasional profanity in public speeches — is scheduled to make her Iowa debut next weekend. □



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Feds to ease rules on drone flights over crowds and at night

By DAVID KOENIG

Federal officials plan to ease restrictions on flying small drones over crowds and at night, which would give a boost to the commercial use of unmanned aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration outlined draft rules Monday that would let drone operators do those things without a special waiver from current rules.

For example, waivers for night flights would no longer be needed for operators who go through special training and put anti-collision lighting on their drones. It's not clear how long it might be before the FAA's easing goes into effect. The FAA said it won't take final action until it finishes another regulation regarding remote identification of small drones, which analysts say could be years away.

Critics have charged that the FAA has stymied the commercial use of drones by taking the rigid approach to safety involving airliners and applying the same standard to the operation of small drones.

Regulators say they are trying to balance the commercial possibilities of drones with the potential threat they pose to safety and privacy.

Companies including CNN and insurance provider State Farm have won waivers to operate drones over people and out of the view of the device's operator. Pro-drone groups, however, argue that forcing companies to get waivers from the FAA is holding back beneficial technology for

use in agriculture, energy and many other industries. A major trade group of drone users praised Monday's development. Brian Wynne, president of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, said that allowing widespread operations over people without a waiver "will allow more operators to harness the great potential" of unmanned aircraft.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, whose department includes the FAA, sought to straddle the commerce-versus-safety debate.

"The department is keenly aware that there are legitimate public concerns about drones," Chao said in remarks to a transportation group. The rules released Monday, she added, "will be a major step forward in enabling the safe development, testing and deployment of drones in our country."

The proposal to let operators fly drones over crowds or at night without a special waiver will be put out for public comment as soon as possible.

In its draft rules, the FAA proposed to divide drone operations by weight, the potential for each unmanned vehicle to cause injuries if it crashes, and other factors. Drones under 55 pounds (25 kilograms) would be permitted to fly over people if, on contact they would not produce severe injuries. Drone manufacturers could meet that standard by adjusting the weight, speed and materials they



In this April 29, 2018, file photo, a drone operator helps to retrieve a drone after photographing over Hart Island in New York.

Associated Press

use, the FAA said.

The FAA is grappling with questions such as whether to set minimum separation distances and maximum speeds for small drones weighing less than 55 pounds.

The agency is not currently considering setting so-called stand-off distance requirements, which would require that small drones stay a certain distance from people. The agency

said using precise numbers would be too burdensome to operators.

The United Kingdom sets minimum distances, and Canadian and European regulators recently proposed them.

The agency is also working on a process to let owners of national-security sites, amusement parks and other places petition the FAA for a ban on drones near their properties.

Rogue drones have been used to carry bombs on battlefields, to deliver contraband to prisoners, to interfere with firefighters and, last month, to cripple the operations of a major airport, Gatwick in London.

Last year, Congress approved a measure that will let the government develop a system to identify and hack or shoot down drones that authorities deem threatening. □

Parents wonder if kids are learning amid Los Angeles strike



Teachers and supporters hold signs in the rain during a rally Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A skeleton crew of substitutes welcomed students to Los Angeles schools Monday as tens of thousands of teachers walked off the job for the first time in three decades, but parents wondered how much their kids were learning in the nation's second-largest school district.

Educators and parents wearing ponchos created a sea of umbrellas as they packed streets in pouring rain to march from City Hall to district headquarters, pressing for higher pay and smaller class sizes that school officials say could bankrupt the system with 640,000 students. The rain-slicked streets filled with protesters contributed to

heavy downtown traffic, but there were no major incidents or arrests.

Teachers aim to build on the momentum of successful strikes nationwide that began last year in conservative states and have moved to the more union-friendly West Coast. But unlike those strikes that shut down many schools and forced parents to find other care for their kids, all 1,240 K-12 schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District were open.

For kids who went to school, bus service was normal, breakfast and lunches were served, and "students are safe and learning," Superintendent Austin Beutner said at a press conference.

The district has hired hundreds of substitutes to replace educators and staff members who left for picket lines, a move that the teachers union has called irresponsible.

Kathleen Whitehead said she grew "more and more irritated" while getting text updates from her 14-year-old daughter Casey. The teen and her classmates at Reseda High School were "being shuffled from

one large auditorium to the next" in large groups so they could be looked after by fewer adults.

"It's semi-organized chaos," Whitehead said.

The ninth-grader told her mom that some kids huddled around a TV showing Michelle Obama's recent appearance on "Carpool Karaoke," a segment from "The Late Late Show with James Corden," while others browsed the internet for busy-work assignments.

Other parents took their kids to the picket line.

Peter Spruyt said he and his fifth-grade daughter "got wet and yelled our voices raw" as they joined teachers protesting for additional staffing at Micheltorena Elementary School. He said he understands parents who sent their kids to school.

"A lot of people have no choice. They have to work, and child care is unaffordable," Spruyt said.

Neighbors whose kids attended classes told him "not much instruction is happening. They're just making sure the kids aren't getting in trouble."

Whitehead said her daughter is "absolutely not going" to school Tuesday.

"She might come to work with me so I can make her study her French," said Whitehead, a real estate agent.

Parents at some schools said attendance appeared to be low Monday, but official numbers were not immediately available. Months of talks between United Teachers Los Angeles, which has 35,000 members, and the district have ended without a deal. No new negotiations were scheduled. Beutner said the district is committed to resolving the contract negotiation as soon as possible and urged the union to resume bargaining.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday which was rejected. They walked away from bargaining," the superintendent said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom urged the sides to resume negotiations and end the strike that was "disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families."

The union rejected the district's latest offer to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and li-

brarians and reduce class sizes by two students. It also included a previously proposed 6 percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract.

Teachers earn between \$44,000 and \$86,000 a year depending on their education and experience, according to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The district says the average teacher salary is \$75,000, which reflects an older, more experienced workforce.

Teachers want significantly smaller class sizes, which routinely top 30 students, and more staff members for the district's campuses in Los Angeles and all or parts of 31 smaller cities, plus several unincorporated areas. Leighton Milton, a 21-year district veteran who teaches at Hollywood High, said he's had as many as 55 students in one class and now has one with 42.

"It's really hard to connect and to deal with 50 people," he said.

The district says the demands run up against an expected half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and billions that are obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

The union argues that the district is hoarding reserves of \$1.8 billion that could be used to fund the pay and staffing hikes. The district said that money is needed to cover retiree benefits and other expenses.

The governor submitted a budget proposal last week that offers money to help pay down the district's pension debt and provide substantial new funding for special education and early education.

Teachers are trying to tap into the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year and won big raises even in states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike. They started in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona and moved to Colorado and Washington state. □

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Police: Utah mall shooting that wounded 2 was gang dispute

By BRADY McCOMBS

MURRAY, Utah (AP) — A shooting at a suburban Salt Lake City mall that sent hundreds of panicked shoppers fleeing started as an argument between rival gang members inside the mall and later erupted in gunfire outside, leaving two people wounded, police said Monday.

Two 19-year-old men were arrested on suspicion of attempted aggravated murder, but investigators are not yet sure if either of them fired the shots that hit the victims, who were also involved in the fight, said Kenny Bass, a police spokesman in the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray.

Shots were fired by the both sides, and those injured were believed to be people with the gangs. No bystanders were hit or injured, Bass said.

Compounding the pandemonium, a fire alarm at the Fashion Place mall that had been malfunctioning for days went off inside the mall, sending people running for exits, Bass said.

Shoppers reported hearing

the alarm after the shooting started about 1:30 p.m. and evacuation orders over a loudspeaker, while employees said they hunkered down in stockrooms and waited.

Mauricio Caballero heard the gunfire from the B'Hood clothing cart where he works and ran to find a friend before racing out of the mall. He said it was the third time in a month the fire alarm sounded randomly, but Caballero said he thinks the alarm helped people who did not hear the gunfire get to safety quickly.

"The universe is taking care of us," said Caballero, 21.

Investigators are still looking for others involved in the dispute and trying to locate more witnesses, Bass said.

The members of the rival gangs crossed paths by chance in the mall and their argument turned physical after it went outside, Bass said.

One of the two victims, a woman in her early 20s, was treated and released hours after the shooting

broke out, Bass said. A man, also in his early 20s, remained hospitalized Monday in critical condition.

The suspects were identified as Jesus J. Payan-Mendoza and Jorge Crecencio-Gonzalez. No attorney was listed in court records for either man.

Fashion Place is a popular shopping center in the heart of the Salt Lake City metro area. It was open Monday, with an increased police presence. The mall's general manager, Mark S. Thorsen, didn't immediately return email and phone messages Monday.

Shopper Sean Sasso stopped by the mall to before going to work as a pharmacy technician, saying he had heard about the shooting.

"I'm not going to live my life in fear and not come to the mall because there was a shooting yesterday," Sasso said.

Corey Robison took his three young children to get breakfast and walk around the mall while his wife went to a doctor's appointment



© 2019 Salt Lake County

This undated photo released by the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office shows Jorge Crecencio-Gonzalez, left; and Jesus J. Payan-Mendoza, right. Utah police have arrested two people, Crecencio-Gonzalez and Jesus J. Payan-Mendoza, both 19, in connection with a suburban Salt Lake City mall shooting that sent hundreds of panicked shoppers into the streets.

Associated Press

nearby.

"I feel like it's unlikely to happen ever again," said Robison, a graphic designer from California who has lived in Utah for three years.

A 2007 shooting at a different Salt Lake City mall killed five people and wounded four others. The 18-year-old gunman was killed in a shootout with police. □

Man who took 2 women hostage at UPS facility is dead

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

LOGAN TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — An armed man who entered a UPS processing facility Monday morning and held two women hostage for several hours was shot and killed by police as he left the building with the women, authorities said.

Several officers fired at William Owens, 39, of Sicklerville, New Jersey, the state

Attorney General's Office said in a news release that did not detail the situation or explain why the suspect was shot.

Owens had entered the business at about 8:45 a.m. and fired shots, which did not strike anyone, before taking the women to a room and barricading himself inside with them, authorities said. Officials believe that Owens had a

prior relationship with one of the hostages, Gloucester County Prosecutor Charles Fiore said.

The women escaped without serious injuries after the standoff in Logan Township, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) south of Philadelphia, Fiore said.

"Multiple members of law enforcement fired at the man, who was armed with a handgun. □

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UK leader in frantic final push to win Brexit deal backing

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May made a frantic last push Monday to swing lawmakers' support behind her seemingly doomed Brexit deal, warning that its defeat risked scuttling the U.K.'s departure from the European Union and "betraying the vote of the British people."

May claimed to have gotten reassurances with "legal force" on key issues from the EU, and said history books would judge Parliament harshly if lawmakers did not back Britain's orderly exit from the EU when they vote on the agreement Tuesday.

"Over these next 24 hours, give this deal a second look," May implored skeptical lawmakers in the House of Commons.

"With just 74 days to go until (Brexit day) the 29th of March, the consequences of voting against this deal tomorrow are becoming ever clearer," she said.

May said rejecting her deal would lead either to a reversal of Brexit — overturning voters' decision in a 2016 referendum — or to Britain leaving the bloc without a deal, a course that would damage the country's economy, security and unity.

But the British leader had



Flags fly opposite the Houses of Parliament as Pro-European demonstrators protest in London, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

few concrete measures up her sleeve, and opposition to her deal remains dauntingly strong. A defeat on Tuesday would throw Brexit plans into disarray just weeks before the U.K. is due to withdraw from the bloc.

Britain and the EU reached a hard-won divorce deal in November, a milestone that should have set the U.K. on the road to an orderly exit.

But the compromise deal has been rejected by both sides of Britain's EU divide. Many Brexit-backing lawmakers say it will leave the

U.K. tethered to the bloc's rules and unable to forge an independent trade policy. Pro-Europeans argue it is inferior to the frictionless economic relationship Britain currently enjoys as an EU member.

May postponed a vote on the deal in December to avoid a resounding defeat, and there are few signs sentiment has changed significantly since then. A handful of previously opposed legislators have swung behind May's agreement in the last few days, but they remain outnumbered by those determined to vote

against it.

In a bid to win support, May sought reassurances from EU leaders about the deal's most contentious measure — an insurance policy known as the "backstop" that would keep Britain in an EU customs union to maintain an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers worry that Britain could be trapped indefinitely in the arrangement, bound to EU trade rules and unable to strike new deals around the world.

In a letter to May published Monday, European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker offered an assurance that the backstop "would only be in place for as long as strictly necessary."

They promised that the EU would work quickly to strike a permanent new trade deal with Britain that would render the backstop unnecessary.

But the letter also reiterated the bloc's refusal to renegotiate the divorce deal. The two men said "we are not in a position to agree to anything that changes or is inconsistent with the Withdrawal Agreement."

Lawmaker Nigel Dodds of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which fiercely opposes the Irish backstop, said "nothing has fundamentally changed."

Facing opposition from pro-Brexit members of her Conservative Party and its DUP allies, May sought to win opposition Labour Party lawmakers' support by promising that the government won't try to water down environmental standards and workers' rights after Brexit.

Some opposition lawmakers suspect that the government plans to reduce the protections in a bid to boost the economy after Britain leaves the EU. □

2 French policemen go on trial accused of raping tourist



In this Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 file picture, police officers stand guard in front of the 36 Quai des Orfèvres police headquarters in Paris, France.

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Two French policemen went on trial Monday on charges of gang-raping a Canadian tourist at Paris police headquarters nearly five years ago.

The officers, both members of the BRI anti-gang force at the time, are accused of raping the woman at 36 Quai des Orfèvres, a famous address depicted in many crime movies and novels.

They deny any wrongdoing and claim the alleged victim consented to sexual interactions during a booze-fueled evening.

Their trial is expected to last three weeks.

The woman, Emily Spanton, attended the trial's first day at a Paris courthouse located only a stone's throw from the police headquarters. She said she met a group of officers across the street near the Seine River in an Irish pub in April 2014.

After several drinks, they invited her for a night tour of police headquarters, where she claimed she was forced to drink whisky, perform oral sex and was raped several times. She left the building about 90 minutes later, barefoot and without her tights.

According to court documents, the men's DNA was found on the woman's un-

derwear. Court president Stephane Duchemin said a medical exam performed after she filed a lawsuit showed she had bruises on several parts of her body and a gynecological lesion.

Experts also determined she was drunk and that she had "between 2.6 and 3.3 grams of alcohol per liter of blood in her body" when the alleged rapes took place.

The Associated Press does not usually identify alleged victims of sexual violence unless they have come forward and voluntarily identified themselves, as Spanton did. □

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Poles unite in grief over assassination of Gdansk mayor

By VANESSA GERA
MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The popular liberal mayor of Poland's port city of Gdansk died Monday after being stabbed at a charity event by an ex-convict with a history of violent crime. The killing plunged the politically divided country into shock and grief and brought Poles into the streets for solemn vigils in a rare show of national unity.

Pawel Adamowicz, 53, died from the wounds inflicted by a 27-year-old man who stormed onstage Sunday evening while the mayor was addressing an audience during the "Lights to Heaven," the finale of a nationwide fundraiser for sick children.

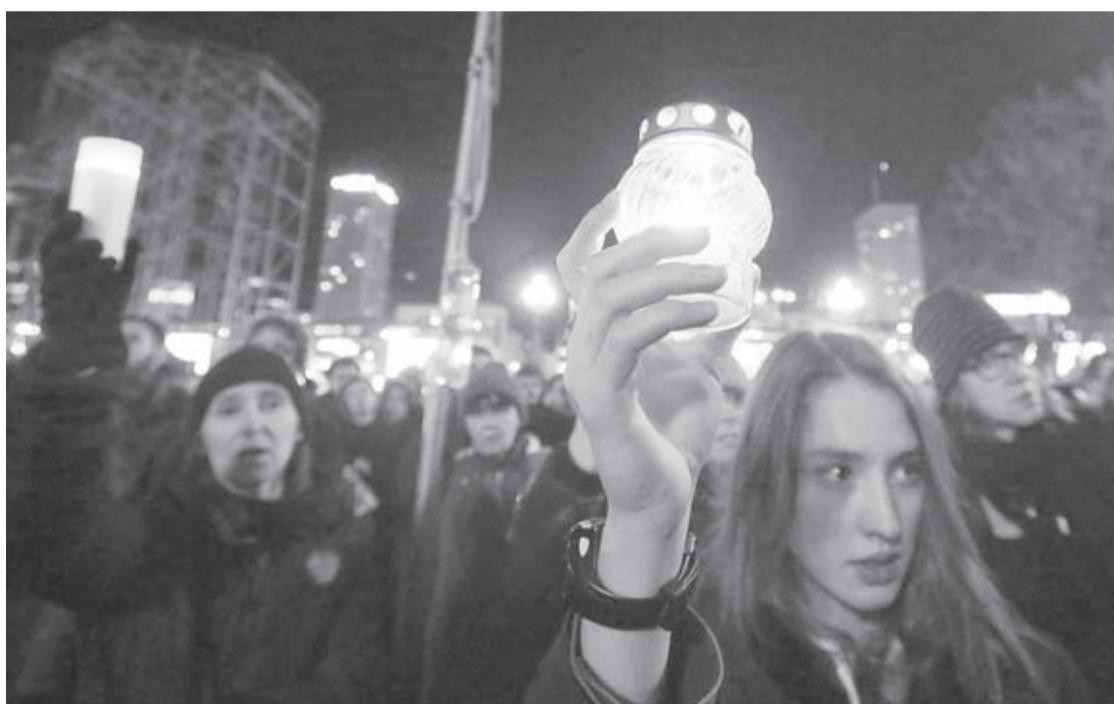
Adamowicz had just expressed gratitude to the "generous" crowd, adding: "This is a wonderful time of sharing good things. You are dear. Gdansk is the most wonderful city in the world. Thank you!"

That's when the assailant rushed up and stabbed him three times, then grabbed a microphone to tell the audience that he acted in revenge against the country's main opposition party, Civic Platform, which Adamowicz was a member of for many years but left it in 2015.

With the music still playing and pyrotechnics erupting onstage, the attacker told the stunned crowd he had been wrongly imprisoned under a Civic Platform-led government.

"I was jailed but innocent.... Civic Platform tortured me. That's why Adamowicz just died," he said.

Adamowicz was taken to



People hold lit candles in a memorial march for Gdansk Mayor Pawel Adamowicz, in Warsaw, Poland, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

a hospital, where doctors struggled to save him, but a five-hour operation and blood transfusions were not enough, given the gravity of the injuries.

The assassination comes while the nation is torn by bitter political divisions that are similar in many ways to those in the United States. The right-wing ruling Law and Justice party faced accusations that a hostile atmosphere against Adamowicz and other liberals has created fertile ground for violence.

Government officials pushed back against that accusation, strongly denouncing the attack and stressing the assailant had a history of violent bank robberies.

Identified by authorities only as Stefan W., he was arrested and charged Monday with murder.

Deputy Chief Prosecutor Krzysztof Sierak said there

were questions about the mental state of the attacker, who used a 14.5-centimeter (5.5-inch) knife on Adamowicz, and that two psychiatrists will examine him. He had served 5½ years in prison and was released toward the end of last year.

President Andrzej Duda, who is aligned with the ruling party, opened a news conference with a minute of silence and said a day of national mourning will be observed when Adamowicz's family holds his funeral, which was not yet announced. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Duda called Adamowicz a "truly great human being, a great politician and great resident of Gdansk," and denounced the attack as an act of unimaginable evil.

Ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Poland's most powerful politician,

expressed his "great pain" and solidarity with Adamowicz's family.

In the evening, solemn vigils were held in Gdansk, Warsaw and other cities. Many carried candles in glass jars and some used cellphones to produce flickers of light, an apparent reference to the "Lights to Heaven" event where Adamowicz was attacked.

In Warsaw, the capital, some held a big banner reading "Stop Hate."

Donald Tusk, a founder of Civic Platform who was prime minister when the attacker was imprisoned and who is now president of the European Council, joined mourners in Gdansk, also his hometown.

"I want to promise you today, dear Paweł, that for you and for all of us, we will defend our Gdansk, our Poland and our Europe from hatred and contempt," Tusk told the crowd. □

The city flag was lowered to half-staff and Masses were held in Gdansk, Warsaw and elsewhere.

Many people in Gdansk had donated blood for Adamowicz, with some saying they were given time off work. Adamowicz was part of the democratic opposition formed in Gdansk under the leadership of Lech Wałęsa during the 1980s. After leaving Civic Platform, he was re-elected to a sixth term as an independent candidate in the fall.

As mayor, he was a progressive voice, promoting sex education in schools and tolerance for LGBT people and minorities. He showed solidarity with the Jewish community when the Gdansk synagogue had its windows broken last year, strongly denouncing the vandalism.

The World Jewish Congress said it was in shock and mourning. "He was a true friend of the Jewish community, speaking loudly and clearly against antisemitism in Poland," it said. Adamowicz also advocated bringing wounded Syrian children to Gdansk for medical treatment, but the plan was blocked by the Law and Justice government. After he took that stand, a far-right group, the All-Polish Youth, issued what they called a "political death notice" for him.

Government critics said they believed the violence could be partly traced to the animosity voiced against Adamowicz by some ruling party officials, which at times was carried on state TV, as well as by extremists from other groups. □

UNHCR urges more aid to developing nations hosting refugees

By BRIAN ROHAN

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Wealthy countries should do more to help developing nations fund local refugee management, the head of the U.N. refugee agency urged Monday, saying that he himself would do "anything" to escape if he was stuck in a squalid camp such as those in war-torn Libya.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the Egyptian president, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said that countries like Egypt do not receive enough recognition for hosting refugees, and that he would advocate for Cairo to receive more bilateral development aid to support its efforts.

Some 85 percent of the world's displaced are living in the global south, he said adding that he hoped that Egypt's 2019 presidency of the African Union could help draw more resources for refugees to Africa.

Migrant flows to Europe across the dangerous Mediterranean Sea route have fallen drastically to man-



In this photo provided by UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi speaks during an interview in Cairo, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

ageable levels compared to years past, he said, but that has not stemmed people fleeing war and poverty flocking to holding camps in places like Libya, where rights groups say conditions are harsh and include beatings, rape and starvation.

"If I was a refugee or a migrant or anybody going

into this center I would opt for anything to get out of there, even if I knew the risk of death was very high," Grandi said, adding that what Libya needed was security, a political settlement, and help to enforce the rule of law instead of just naval support and aid to build camps to stop illegal people trafficking.

Seeking similar arrangements to the east, European Union leaders have been urging Egypt to help stem the flow of migrants entering Europe from Africa, offering to step up economic cooperation and the prospect of a high-profile summit in Cairo as incentives. Cairo has so far been held up as a good ex-

ample of cooperation on the migrant issue for stopping people from leaving its coast bound for Europe. But it has stopped short of setting up "disembarkation platforms" as Europe seeks, where people rescued at sea could be dropped off for screening. "We've heard loud and clear from the government here that they will not establish any camp or any center ... frankly I think they are right," Grandi said, highlighting how Egypt has increased naval surveillance and border control to stop boats headed to Europe from debarking from its shores.

Egypt in 2016 passed legislation to crack down on human trafficking, a growing illegal industry across the Mediterranean, and last year referred dozens to trial for attempted smuggling. Those combined efforts, he said, meant that more refugees were staying in Egypt, causing a stronger drain on its public services requiring additional aid. "We need to intensify the help," he said. Egypt hosts some 250,000 officially registered refugees. □

Russia tells Japan retaking Pacific islands not on horizon

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's top diplomat threw cold water Monday on Tokyo's hopes for a quick return of four Pacific islands at the center of territorial dispute, warning Japan it must recognize the islands as part of Russia as a starting point for talks.

The stern statement from Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, which followed the talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Kono, appeared to reflect Moscow's efforts to temper Japanese expectations of an imminent deal on the Kuril Islands dispute.

It sets a tough stage for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's trip to Moscow for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin later this month. Abe has recently voiced hope that this year



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during his news conference following the talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

will mark a breakthrough in solving the dispute and spoke about an imminent change in the islands' status—remarks that angered Moscow.

Speaking after the talks, Lavrov said Moscow saw recent statements from Abe as unacceptable.

"Russia's sovereignty over the islands isn't subject to discussion. They are part of the territory of the Russian Federation," Lavrov told reporters, noting the U.N. Charter supports Moscow's ownership of them.

The Soviet Union took the four southernmost Kuril Is-

lands during the final days of World War II. Japan asserts territorial rights to the islands, which it calls the Northern Territories. The dispute has kept the countries from signing a peace treaty.

Speaking at the start of the talks, Japan's Kono said Russia and Japan needed to solve the territorial problem to set the stage for expanded economic and other ties.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Takeshi Osuga said during a separate briefing in Moscow the two ministers had a "serious and frank exchange." He wouldn't comment on specifics and said Russian and Japanese diplomats would continue discussions on the issue.

Putin and Abe agreed in November to accelerate negotiations based on a

1956 Soviet proposal to return two of the islands to Japan, but Lavrov's somber tone indicated that Japanese expectations of a quick breakthrough were premature.

Abe's optimism raised concerns in Russian nationalist circles and fueled criticism of the Kremlin. In an apparent attempt to contain the damage, the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the Japanese ambassador to warn Tokyo not to "artificially incite the atmosphere regarding the peace treaty problem and try to enforce its own scenario of settling the issue."

Lavrov struck a similar chord as he sat down Monday with Kono.

"Once again, I would like to ask our Japanese colleagues to strictly follow agreements by our leaders," he said. □

China sentences Canadian to death, raises diplomatic tension

By YANAN WANG
CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese court sentenced a Canadian man to death on Monday in a drug smuggling case as tensions heightened between the two countries over Canada's arrest last month of a top Chinese technology executive.

In a sudden retrial, a Chinese court in northeastern Liaoning province announced that it had given Robert Lloyd Schellenberg the death penalty, reversing an earlier 2016 ruling that sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

The court gave no indication that the penalty could be commuted, but Schellenberg's fate is likely to be drawn into diplomatic negotiations over China's demand for the release of Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau strongly condemned Monday's proceeding, suggesting that China was using its judicial system to retaliate against Canada. In his strongest comments yet, Trudeau said "all countries around the world" should be concerned that Beijing is acting arbitrarily with its justice system.

"It is of extreme concern to us as a government, as it should be to all our international friends and allies, that China has chosen to begin to arbitrarily apply a death penalty," Trudeau said.

Further escalating the diplomatic crisis between the two countries, a Chinese spokeswoman said earlier Monday that Michael Kovrig, a former Canadian



In this image taken from a video footage run by China's CCTV, Canadian Robert Lloyd Schellenberg attends his retrial at the Dalian Intermediate People's Court in Dalian, northeastern China's Liaoning province on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

diplomat taken into custody in apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest, was not eligible for diplomatic immunity.

Schellenberg was detained more than four years ago and initially sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2016. But within weeks of Meng's Dec. 1 arrest an appeals court suddenly reversed that decision, saying the sentence was too lenient, and scheduled Monday's retrial with just four days' notice.

The Chinese press began publicizing Schellenberg's case after Canada detained Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder, at the request of the United States, which wants her extradited to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Days after Meng's arrest, Kovrig and Canadian busi-

nessman Michael Spavor were detained on vague national security allegations. Meng is out on bail in Canada awaiting extradition proceedings that will begin next month.

Canada has embarked on a campaign with allies to win the release of Kovrig and Spavor. The United States, Britain, European Union and Australia have issued statements in support. Trudeau called U.S. President Donald Trump about their case last week and the White House called the arrests "unlawful."

Schellenberg's lawyer, Zhang Dongshuo, said his client now has 10 days to appeal.

Zhang said he argued in the one-day trial that there was insufficient evidence to prove his client's involvement in the drug smuggling operation. He added that prosecutors had not introduced new evidence to

justify a heavier sentence. "This is a very unique case," Zhang told The Associated Press in a phone interview. He said the swiftness of the proceedings was unusual but declined to comment on whether it was related to Meng's arrest.

The court said it found that Schellenberg was involved in an international drug-smuggling operation and was recruited to help smuggle more than 222 kilograms (488 pounds) of methamphetamine from a warehouse in the Chinese city of Dalian to Australia. A Chinese man convicted of involvement in the same operation was earlier given a suspended death sentence.

Fifty people, including Canadian diplomats and foreign and domestic media, attended Monday's trial, the court said in an online statement.

In 2009, China executed

a Briton, Akmal Shaikh, on charges of smuggling heroin despite his supporters' protest that he was mentally ill.

Earlier Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said authorities had determined Kovrig was not entitled to diplomatic immunity, rejecting a complaint from Trudeau that China was not respecting longstanding practices regarding diplomatic immunity.

Hua told reporters that Kovrig is no longer a diplomat and entered China on an ordinary passport and business visa.

"According to the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations and international law, he is not entitled to diplomatic immunity," Hua said at a daily briefing. "I suggest that the relevant Canadian person carefully study the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and international law before commenting on the cases, or they would only expose themselves to ridicule with such specious remarks."

Kovrig, a Northeast Asia analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank, took a leave of absence from the Canadian government. A former Canadian ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, said he believes the Chinese likely interrogated Kovrig about his time as a diplomat in China.

He said that would violate Vienna Convention protections of residual diplomatic immunity that mean a country is not allowed to question someone on the work they did when they were a diplomat.

"It's difficult not to see a link" between the case and Canada's arrest of Meng, Saint-Jacques said. □

Heavy smog, worsened by weather, raises alarm across Asia

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Unusually high levels of smog worsened by weather patterns are raising alarm across Asia.

In Bangkok, a combination

of construction dust, auto exhaust and other pollutants has taken air quality to unhealthy levels in recent days.

The Thai Pollution Control Department said Monday

that a low pressure system was partly to blame, leaving the smog concentrated over the country's biggest city. A department official said about half of the high levels of PM 2.5, tiny

particulate matter that can dangerously clog lungs, was due to diesel engine emissions.

In South Korea, the ultrafine dust levels prompted emergency measures to reduce

the health hazard.

Pollution often is out of control by the time countries take action. India's cities are among the smoggiest and it is just starting to tackle the problem. □

Fresh-faced Venezuelan lawmaker emerges as Maduro's rival

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ

SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— When Venezuelans rang in the new year, few in the crisis-wracked nation had even heard of Juan Guaido.

Two weeks later, the young backbench lawmaker has emerged as a key power broker as he leads the opposition-controlled congress in a high-stakes standoff with socialist President Nicolas Maduro, who is increasingly seen as a dictator both at home and abroad.

"Guaido for president!" people shouted Friday at the largest street rally in over a year to take on Maduro, eagerly waiting for the fresh-faced 35-year-old to speak. "Out with Maduro!"

As Venezuela's economic crisis deepens, with masses fleeing the country to escape runaway inflation on pace to surpass 23 million percent, many are desperate for a new leader to rescue the once-wealthy oil nation from two decades of socialist rule.

Dozens of countries, including the United States, denounced Maduro as illegitimate as he took the oath Thursday for a second, six-year term.

Into that void stepped Guaido.

An industrial engineer who cut his political teeth in a student protest movement a decade ago, he was elected to the National Assembly in 2015, and in its first session this year was named its leader.

Maduro in a Friday night TV address from the presidential palace made light of Guaido's newcomer status, feigning confusion over whether his name was "Guaido" or "Guaire," a notoriously polluted river that runs through Caracas.

"A lot of people in Venezuela are going to ask what is this 'Guaido'?" Maduro joked.

However, the perils of tangling with Maduro are no laughing matter. Shortly after he was elected head of the National Assembly, the rival constitutional assem-



An opposition member holds a sign with the likeness of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro with text that reads in Spanish "Tyrant" during a protest in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Jan. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

bly controlled by Maduro's allies threatened Guaido and others with an investigation for treason.

That's the same charge that landed in jail another up-and-coming opponent, Juan Requenses, following a drone attack on Maduro in August. Requenses has yet to have a public hearing, nor have prosecutors presented any evidence in the case.

Venezuela's feared SEBIN intelligence police pulled Guaido from his vehicle Sunday as he headed to a town hall meeting and briefly detained him.

The challenge for Guaido is to find a way to avoid being permanently arrested while keeping together a fractious opposition coalition, some of whose leaders are urging him to invoke an article of the constitution to declare himself interim president in direct defiance of the "illegitimate" Maduro.

Luis Vicente Leon, head of the Caracas-based polling firm Datanalisis, said such a radical approach is popular among the restive grassroots, exiles and their conservative foreign backers. But it won't necessarily loosen Maduro's powerful grip on Venezuela's institutions, oil wealth and especially the military — the tra-

ditional arbiter of political disputes.

"If he decides to do it, part of the opposition will say he's crazy, and if he doesn't, part will say he's a coward," Leon said. "Meanwhile, Maduro is waiting on the side to take advantage of the situation."

The architect of Guaido's meteoric rise is Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuela's most popular opposition leader, who is muzzled under house arrest and considered by government opponents to be a political prisoner. At a time when many had written off the National Assembly, which was stripped of its last bit of power after the government set up the rival constitutional assembly in 2017, Lopez maneuvered behind the scenes for his Popular Will party to assume the presidency of the gutted legislature.

He then tapped Guaido, serving his first full term as a lawmaker, who rose to the helm of their party in Venezuela after eight more senior politicians sitting on Popular Will's national board were exiled since 2014.

Guaido has been a loyal acolyte of Lopez for years, standing beside him at a 2014 news conference when the activist announced a strategy of

anti-Maduro unrest. What was called "The Exit" bitterly divided the opposition because it came less than a year into Maduro's presidency, when support for his rule was still strong.

The two talk a half dozen times each day, and not a single speech or move isn't coordinated with Lopez first, said one ally, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the internal proceedings.

Because Guaido was unknown, Leon said that he hadn't even measured Guaido's approval ratings, like he does numerous other politicians. But he plans to start doing so this week. Critics say Guaido lacks a political vision, pointing to his rambling debut speech as the legislature's president, which was full of rhetorical barbs aimed at the "usurper" Maduro but short on specifics on how to get out of the malaise.

Still, others see his youth and relative inexperience as breathing life into the beaten-down opposition, making Maduro's frequent diatribes that it is dominated by elitist relics from Venezuela's pre-revolutionary past harder to stick. Guaido told The Associated Press in a recent interview

he doesn't fear running into the same fate as his political allies. He pointed to scars on his neck caused by rubber bullets fired during 2017 street demonstrations against Maduro.

"I still have projectiles lodged here," he said.

Guaido has endured hardships for much of his life. At age 15, shortly after Maduro's mentor, the late Hugo Chavez, assumed the presidency and ushered in a socialist overhaul, Guaido and his family survived a torrential mudslide that killed thousands and left many more homeless in the port city of La Guaira, a short distance from Caracas and home to the capital's airport.

"We are survivors," he said. "If they take Juan Guaido prisoner, someone else will emerge, because our generation won't give up."

Like Lopez, the wiry Guaido prides himself an athlete and is a devotee of his hometown's Sharks — a perennial loser in the Venezuelan baseball league. He and his wife, a fellow activist, have a daughter named for Francisco de Miranda, a precursor to Venezuelan independence hero Simon Bolivar.

While in congress, Guaido earned a reputation as a hard worker and consensus-builder while serving as the head of the comptroller commission that investigates allegations of government corruption.

Now he is drawing attention on the international stage. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the presidents of Colombia and Chile have each called him in recent days to offer support.

Luis Almagro, the head of the Organization of American States, went even further, recognizing him as Venezuela's interim president — a title Guaido himself has been careful to avoid embracing. "You have our support," Almagro tweeted.

And on Saturday, the U.S. State Department issued a statement explicitly calling for a new government in Venezuela. □

Island Insight

Aruba's way back in time of the Paleo lithic hunters and gatherers.

Episode I: Coming from the North

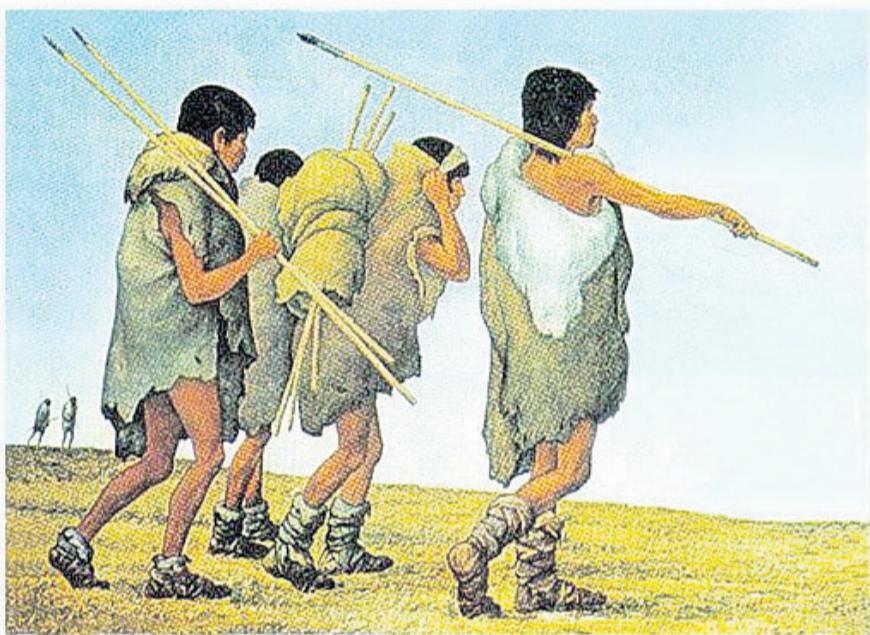


Plate 1. Preceramic hunters and gatherers

ORANJESTAD — Nothing stood in their way and nowhere in the new world seems to have been too far to reach, if it only offered enough resources to make life easier. It was the time when atmospheric conditions indicated that the average temperature -about twelve thousand years ago- was six to twelve degrees cooler than it is today, in the southwestern Caribbean area. Climate conditions were drier, but it gradually became more humid than what it is in present days. This was the time of the preceramic hunters and gatherers.

Yes, Aruba's landscape was also covered with a greater amount of flora in that time. The overall conditions in which these ancient marauders found this land upon their arrival was in every aspect much more favorable for people that were cultured and trained to carry everything with them on their back or as required, have technical skills and make use of plants. Like to be able to read the slightest atmospheric variations to predict the weather conditions or that greater sense of smell that was developed to distinguish scents of different animals, coming rain or ripen fruits. All this together and more contributed to an easy and a sustainable way of life in a harsh and wild environment.

Mother Earth

The island's landscape and topography in many areas offered perfect layouts that formed zones where people were able to walk for hours under a green canopies of rain forest, where trees blocked the incoming sun light during the whole year. Forest consisting of mixed vegetation made out of ferns, orchids, vines and bromeliads Etc. Many of these plants have long disappeared and are to be considered extinct varieties, lost forever. Who knows what medicinal properties, food source, color pigment or even an effective insect or vermin repeller these plants could have carried? Even though it is a small island, there were also places that were open grasslands or savannas covered with cactus and xerophilous, while other zones were made out of wet lands and natural salt pans. However there were no mango tree or coconut palms, tamarind juice or watermelons and everything they knew about electricity was that he was the father of fire, wind and water and that the earth was their mother and mother of all things. He, who came from beyond the clouds and lit up the night skies with his flash and thundering voice.



Plate 2.: Map of the continent and the Caribbean sea. Locating Aruba as a red.

Bays of Aruba

We must try to imagine by picturing how the southern coast was covered with a thick mix of many mangroves varieties that had their roots in the sea direct in front of the coast line, forming impenetrable and different kind of forests this time, these mangroves offered on its part, a great deal of marine resources including timber. Coastal mangrove forests grew so thick and dense that it only gave way in a few places to reach shore with dug out tree trunk canoes. These access points to the shore, in time became bays and some are still in use today. Places like the Commandeursbaai at Savaneta or the Spanish Lagoon, Barcadera, the Lagoon and Paardenbaai in Oranjestad. However, there used to be another bay in Oranjestad which was called Taratata, the only bay that carried the Toponym or name given by our Paleo hunters. It is what probably meant, the place of arrival, related to Taratara in Venezuela that means, place of departure in the Paleolithic language. Regrettably Taratata has been absorbed with the expansion of the late container haven at Paardenbaai together with its name almost forgotten in time.

Greater Area

Many different animals lived in the greater area, some familiar but many others only exists today in



Anthony Croes is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a kid, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that Aruba Today welcomes him as our newest columnist. Every Tuesday his column Island Insight will be published in our newspaper. Enjoy!



Article by Etnia Nativa
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DESIGN BY STEFFEN HAAS



Welcome to Cuba: an unforgettable culinary experience! Renaissance Aruba presents 'Havana Nights'



ORANJESTAD - JAN - Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino continues the journey around the culinary world. Next stop: Cuba! This year too, the aficionado can enjoy a series of Pop-up restaurants at Renaissance, each of which has a different and authentic character. 'Havana Nights', where the guest is taken on a journey through the historic streets of Cuba, promises to be an extraordinary Pop-up.

Havana Nights!

Welcome to Cuba! Havana Nights is the first Pop-up Restaurant of 2019 and will take place on January the 18th and 19th at the Upper Pool Deck of the Renaissance Marina Hotel. Get ready for an exclusive Cuban evening. One of the

specific changes to this pop-up is that only dinner will be presented, and with limited capacity. The guest will enjoy all that the Cuban cuisine has to offer for only \$ 85 per person (excluding service charge). This includes a Cuban family style



dinner, an Open Mojito Bar with different Mojito flavors, presented by Ron Caney, rum tasting where different rum flavors can be savored and the icing on this 'Cuban' cake, 'live' music by Trio Yalorde, directly from Curaçao! Especially for this event, Cigar Emporium Aruba, Aruba's cigar house, will give all guests a 'Romeo & Juliet' as a wel-

come gift. Cigar Emporium Aruba will present a different selection for each evening of 'Havana Nights'.

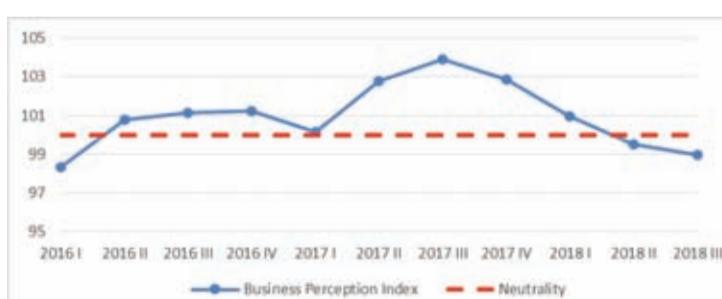
Given that it is a new concept in the pop-up series, only prepaid reservations will be processed. There are limited seats, so make your reservations by contacting the Renaissance Navigator via 523.6115. □



Business Perception Index Decreased Results for the third Quarter of 2018

ORANJESTAD — The surveyed businesses indicated a lower degree of confidence in the third quarter of 2018, and this sentiment is expected to continue in the short-term future. During the quarter under review, the overall Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising the current and short-term economic conditions, decreased by 0.5 percentage point to 99.0. Likewise, the current economic condition index edged down by 0.2 percentage point to 100.3, while the short-term future economic condition index contracted by 1.4 percentage points to 97.0

Chart 1: Business Perception Index



(Chart 1).

Economic conditions in Aruba and business activities had a negative impact on the perception of the surveyed businesses regarding both the current and the expected short-term economic conditions. 90 – 100 Pessimistic 100 – 110 Optimistic

more pessimistic in the third quarter of 2018, due to the negative result of the expected short-term economic conditions.

100 – 110 Optimistic

Continued on Page 15

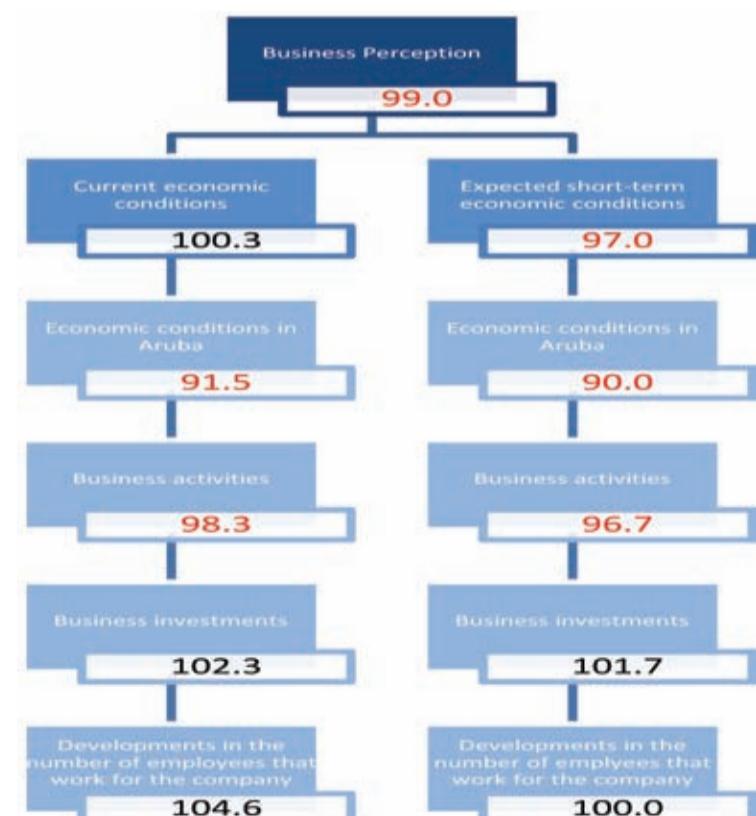


Chart 2: Components of the Business Perception Index

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Business Perception Index Decreased Results for the third Quarter of 2018

Continued from Page 14

In the third quarter of 2018, employment conditions were relatively dynamic, with the surveyed businesses noting both expansions and contractions in the number of employees. Despite having a higher number of profitable businesses within the sample, however, a larger percentage of respondents registered a decrease in sales, compared to the second quarter of 2018. Developments related to average wage costs remained relatively stable, compared to the previous quarter, with the majority of surveyed businesses reporting an increase in average wage costs. □

	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
EMPLOYMENT											
1. No change	29.6	57.1	23.1	38.5	61.9	26.9	44.0	48.1	48.0	64.3	38.5
2. Increase	29.6	32.1	42.3	26.9	19.0	46.2	36.0	29.6	28.0	21.4	34.6
3. Decrease	40.7	10.7	34.6	34.6	19.0	26.9	20.0	22.2	24.0	14.3	26.9
Total	100.0										
PROFITABILITY - PROFITS											
1. No change	22.2	21.4	19.2	15.4	9.5	11.5	8.0	11.1	28.0	14.3	11.5
2. Increase	40.7	32.1	34.6	42.3	52.4	53.8	64.0	55.6	44.0	46.4	30.8
3. Decrease	18.5	35.7	34.6	30.8	23.8	23.1	16.0	14.8	24.0	14.3	38.5
Total	81.5	89.3	88.5	88.5	85.7	88.5	88.0	81.5	96.0	75.0	80.8
PROFITABILITY - LOSSES											
1. No change	3.7	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	0.0	7.1	3.8
2. Increase	11.1	7.1	3.8	3.8	0.0	3.8	8.0	3.7	0.0	7.1	11.5
3. Decrease	3.7	3.6	7.6	3.8	14.3	7.7	4.0	7.4	4.0	10.7	3.8
Total	18.5	10.7	11.5	11.5	14.3	11.5	12.0	18.5	4.0	25.0	19.2
SALES											
1. No change	11.1	22.2	23.1	11.5	9.5	7.7	12.0	7.4	20.0	14.3	7.7
2. Increase	51.9	37.0	57.7	53.8	71.4	65.4	76.0	63.0	64.0	60.7	42.3
3. Decrease	37.0	40.7	19.2	34.6	19.0	26.9	12.0	29.6	16.0	25.0	50.0
Total	100.0										
AVERAGE WAGE COSTS											
1. No change	25.9	21.4	19.2	15.4	23.8	19.2	24.0	22.2	16.0	21.4	23.1
2. Increase	63.0	67.9	65.4	69.2	71.4	73.1	56.0	55.6	72.0	64.3	57.7
3. Decrease	11.1	10.7	15.4	15.4	4.8	7.7	20.0	22.2	12.0	14.3	19.2
Total	100.0										

Table 1: Perceived developments in employment, profitability, sales, and average wage costs (In percentages of all respondents)

Asi Es Mi Peru restaurant launches Chef Table 5 Course Menu: "It feels like having dinner at home in Peru"



EAGLE BEACH - Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas is the proud owner of a restaurant that without doubt serves the purest Peruvian specialties in Aruba: Asi Es Mi Peru at Paradise Beach Villas. She herself welcomes you in 'her home' as that is how the restaurant is described by Peruvian foodies: Food like home, for sure the best compliment a restaurant can get. "Everything here is 100 % Peruvian, we are authentic and ethnic." Peru by the way is considered to be the single most important cuisine in Latin America with a repertoire of dishes that might even beat France. Many big-name chefs travel to the country to get inspired.

How It All Started

"Many years ago during a Christmas gathering with family my mom told me why I did not open a Peruvian restaurant in Aruba. She said: who does not love Peruvian food?" That was the trigger for the start because Roxanne loves cooking, it is in her genes. Her mom and grandmother were great cooks. "My base principle was to do everything original and authentic. When guests come to this restaurant I want to serve them the food as if you were dining the best dishes in a house in Peru. The taste is equal, nothing is fused or changed. Many Peruvians that come here say: I feel like I am having dinner at home. It is very difficult to please Peruvians as naturally they know best what is authentic." To find her Chef and Sous Chef she went to Peru where she interviewed 190 applicants. "We had more than 400 people that applied, after a screening that my brother and I did, we were left with 190 and out of them 10 cooked for me. I gave them a basket with ingredients and a certain plate they had to cook. Based on that I chose the Chef and Sous Chef."

Chef Table 5 Course Menu

Peruvian food is remarkable for the diversity of its ingredients. It might be best known for its ceviche, the marinated seafood dish, but bestsellers are also Lomo Saltado (stir fry strips sirloin), seafood rice and Pescado a lo Macho (fish of the day). Roxanne explains

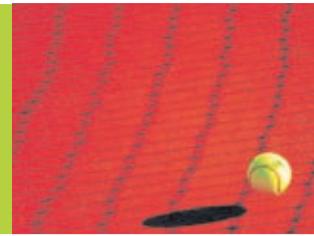


that recently the Chef launched a 5-course Chef Table Menu. "Now that we have standardized our typical Peruvian cuisine, we are ready to take it to the next level. Our Chef is very knowledgeable and we bring higher cuisine to the table." Of the 5 courses the first is the Tiradito Tres Regiones, and the 2nd the Majao de Yuca con Pargo Escabechado paired with a wonderful Santiago Ruiz Albarino; The 3rd plate is a Cremosa de Quinoa con Aji Relleno paired with a Hahn Pinot Noir, the 4th the Lomo con Salsa de Hongos Andinos paired with a Merlot Santa Margarita, and the 5th a Crocante de Maracuya. Try this wonderful culinary experience!

Roxanne explains that the Peruvian food is influenced by different cultures. "A lot of people came from China to work in the sugar plantations, Japanese came to work in the rice fields and African immigrants brought their influences as well... that's why you see a fusion in the dishes. The typical food and plates from Peru mixed with these influences make up for an excellent cuisine. Our sushi for example is totally different than the standard sushi and we have so many pastas that are outside of Italian pastas. The variety of corn, more than 500 variety of potatoes... I can go on and on." I guess you will need to try it for yourself as Roxanne's place is unique. Asi Es Mi Peru is open every day from 12 noon - 10:30 pm. They are closed on Monday evening. Have a peak on their website <https://www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com/> or Facebook así es mi perú. □



SPORTS



NFL launches social justice initiative, stressing education

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL is launching a social justice platform, with an emphasis on education, economic development and community and police relations.

The platform is called Inspire Change and includes the funding of grass-roots organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Operation HOPE. It also will establish a digital learning curriculum for African-American history in 175 underserved high schools.

The league announced the initiative Friday in connection with its 32 teams and the Players Coalition, a group of players that works for social justice.

Inspire Change is the latest step for the league and the players after they established a working relationship in October 2017 following player demonstrations for social justice during the national anthem — a topic that drew attention from the White House.

"This launch involves new grants, new African-American history education programs in schools, grants with organizations we have not worked with before and who are doing the work on the ground, and PSAs on broadcasts beginning with this weekend's playoff games," says Anna Isaacson, the NFL's senior vice president of social responsibility.

"You have to really take the time to understand the topic, you can't just dive in."

Continued on Page 23

DOWN AND OUT



Retiring Andy Murray out in opening round

Britain's Andy Murray throws his racket in frustration during his first round match against Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press
Page 19

Another win for Kuchar, this victory with a rainbow

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Matt Kuchar never had a PGA Tour season end so soon. He shot 74 on Labor Day and failed to advance out of the second round of the FedEx Cup playoffs for the first time in 10 years. He was never in serious contention all year. The captain's picks for the Ryder Cup were announced the next day. Kuchar wasn't even considered, left off a U.S. team for the first time since 2009.

Four months later, the view is so much different.

The rainbow that stretched across the Oahu sky on Sunday looked magical when Kuchar turned to raise his arms after one last birdie for a 4-under 66, which gave him a four-shot victory in the Sony Open. Kuchar had gone 115 starts on tour without winning. Now he has won two of his last three.

"Crazy to comprehend," he said.

This was much harder than reading the fine print that he won by four shots over Andrew Putnam with the third-lowest score in Sony Open history.

Kuchar's two-shot lead go-

ing into the final round was gone in four holes, and when he missed the green on No. 5 with a wedge, he was trailing for the first time all weekend. At the par-5 ninth, Kuchar and Putnam were in the same bunker short of the green. Putnam went first and blasted out to a few inches. Kuchar left his 10 feet below the hole and was in jeopardy of falling two behind.

He made the putt, one of several key moments the rest of the way. And right after Putnam's lone mistake, a 9-iron into a deep bunker left of the 14th green that led to his only bogey in a round of 68, Kuchar answered with back-to-back birdies and was headed to another victory.

"Thrilled to have won two events this early in the year," said Kuchar, the first multiple winner on the PGA Tour this season. "It absolutely sets up the year to be in great position for the FedEx Cup. There's a lot of year left, and a lot of great things that are out there to be done."

It was only the second time in his career that he had multiple victories. The other was in 2013, when he won



Matt Kuchar holds the champions trophy after the final round of the Sony Open PGA Tour golf event, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, at Waialae Country Club in Honolulu.

Associated Press

the Match Play Championship in February and the Memorial in early June, with three majors still to be played.

Extra special to Kuchar was going up the 18th fairway with a comfortable margin. Winning was never this easy in his previous eight victories.

Then again, part of him likes it that way, whether he's trying to recover from a bad start on Sunday or even a bad year.

"I love playing golf. I love how hard it is," he said. "Golf is addictive that way, in that if you're not playing

well you can't wait to figure it out and make it better. If you're playing well, shoot, it's great. It's awesome. You want it to never end. It's a cycle of whether it's good or bad that you have this quest to continue to play, to improve, to fix, whatever it is."

He goes to No. 22 in the world ranking and No. 2 in the FedEx Cup. He already has earned over \$2.5 million in January, \$800,000 more than all of last season. Kuchar turned 40 last summer, which might have added to the anxiety of going so long without a win.

He never saw it that way. This run began with a visit to his swing coach, Chris O'Connell, right before he began this season. He didn't score well in Las Vegas and stayed the course. He won in Mexico at the Mayakoba Classic the following week, and then he won again.

"I'm not sure I'm into making a statement, but it is interesting to see how young the tour has gotten," he said. "But thankfully, golf requires so many different things to be going right. It's not just power game, a putting game. □

NBC to use Toptracer on all 18 holes of PGA Tour telecasts

By JOE REEDY

AP Sports Writer

The NBC Sports Group and Topgolf Entertainment are unveiling a new technology partnership which they are hoping will bring golfers and casual fans closer to the sport.

The multiyear agreement includes the expansion of Toptracer as the network's ball-tracking technology for PGA Tour telecasts on NBC and The Golf Channel.

Toptracer tracks the golf ball's flight and can provide information such as ball speed, apex, curve and carry.

NBC will have exclusive use of Toptracer on all 18 holes, beginning with the Waste Management Phoenix Open scheduled from Jan. 31 through Feb. 3. The technology will be used mainly during tee shots via a live shot or a trace over a graphic of the hole.

Toptracer can also track fairway shots with two mini-cameras that can be used anywhere on the course.

"Viewers want more information because they say it helps improve the telecast," said NBC golf producer Tommy Roy. "To be able to have Toptracer on

all 18 holes is going to be able to tell the story from tournaments better."

Toptracer was started as Protracer in Sweden in 2006 by Daniel Forsgren, who was annoyed he couldn't see the flight of tee shots while watching golf on television. It was bought by Top Golf in 2016 and renamed Toptracer. Toptracer was used on 161 televised golf tournaments worldwide last year.

CBS used it on 10 holes during all but one event last year. The PGA Championship on CBS was the first time a network got to use it on all 18. "The tech-

nology has evolved over the years but what we are doing is really trying to use it to help more people enjoy the game," Toptracer President Ben Sharpe said. "It allows us to show the casual player what goes on and the different types of shots that are used."

Toptracer will also be used on NBC and Golf Channel's coverage of other events, including the KPMG Women's PGA Championship in June, the Senior PGA Championship in May and the NCAA Division I men's and women's golf championships in late May. Golf Channel will use Top-

tracer Range on driving ranges when it has its "Live from" shows during some of the sport's biggest events. Will McIntosh, the executive vice president of strategy for golf at NBC Sports, said Topgolf's deal includes a partnership where Golf-Now, which is a division of Golf Channel specializing in sales, will work with them to sell Toptracer Range to golf facilities.

Besides Toptracer, NBC is testing "Walk and Talk" interviews on the course during PGA Tour telecasts and mic'ing up players during the first two Web.com Tour events later this month. □

On bad hip, Murray out in 1st round of Australian Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— If this was it for Andy Murray, if this truly was it, he gave himself — and an appreciative, raucous crowd that included his mother and brother — quite a gutsy goodbye, the type of never-give-in performance he's famous for.

What Murray could not quite do Monday at the Australian Open was finish off a stirring comeback and prolong what might just be the final tournament of his career.

Playing on a surgically repaired right hip so painful that pulling on socks is a chore, he summoned the strength and strokes to erase a big deficit and force a fifth set before eventually succumbing to 22nd-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-2, Murray's first opening-round loss at a Grand Slam tournament in 11 years.

"If today was my last match, look, it was a brilliant way to finish," Murray said. "I literally

gave everything that I had on the court, fought as best as I could, and performed a lot better than what I should have done with the amount I've been able to practice and train."

Murray, just 31, is a year removed from his operation, and he said that he will decide in the next week or so whether to have a second one. If he opts to avoid another procedure, he might be able to play in July at Wimbledon, where he won two of his three major titles, including the first for a British man in 77 years. If he



Britain's Andy Murray reacts during his first round match against Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

decides for further surgery, then Monday's match might have been his last. Even with a hitch in his gait, even as he leaned forward to rest his hands on his knees between points, Murray summoned the strength and the strokes to push the match beyond the 4-hour mark.

And the fans tried to will him past Bautista Agut, who had lost in straight sets all three previous matches the two men had played. They roared when Murray managed to break back to 2-all on the way to taking the third set, with his mom, Judy, smiling widely as she stood alongside other spectators.

They chanted his name when he grabbed the fourth set.

They rose when the compelling contest ended.

"Andy deserves this atmosphere. Andy deserves

(that) all the people came to watch him," Bautista Agut said. "He's a tough, tough fighter. A tough opponent. He gives everything until the last point. I want to congratulate him for all he did for tennis."

Afterward, a video was shown in the stadium with tributes to Murray from various players, including rivals Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, along with Nick Kyrgios, Caroline Wozniacki, Karolina Pliskova and Sloane Stephens.

"Amazing career. Congratulations, buddy," Federer said. "I'm your biggest fan." Federer opened his bid for a third consecutive Australian Open championship, and record seventh overall, with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Denis Istomin at Rod Laver Arena. Nadal, whose 17 career majors are second among men only to

Federer's 20, overpowered Australian wild-card entry James Duckworth 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 earlier.

Nadal, who had surgery on his right ankle in November, hadn't competed since stopping during his U.S. Open semifinal in September because of a bad knee.

"It's very difficult to start (again) after an injury," Nadal said. "I know it very well."

Other major title winners who advanced on Day 1, when the temperature approached 90 degrees (33 Celsius), included defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, Maria Sharapova — who beat Harriet Dart 6-0, 6-0 — Angelique Kerber, Sloane Stephens and Petra Kvitova.

The highest-seeded player to exit was No. 9 John Isner, who hit 47 aces but lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6), 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5)

against 97th-ranked Reilly Opelka in an all-American match.

The most attention, though, was drawn by Murray, who is as popular for his success on the court as his attitude away from it.

The stands were dotted with British and Scottish flags and with signs of support. When Bautista Agut entered, he was greeted by a smattering of polite applause. When Murray was introduced, there were full-throated screams, followed by chants of his first name.

As play began, Murray delighted his well-wishers every so often with terrific shots on a full sprint and his trademark, quick-reflex returns. When he flubbed a shot or otherwise let a point slide by, Murray displayed the muttering and leg-slapping self-contempt the world has come to know and expect — and, let's face it, love — from the guy.

For all that Murray accomplished over the years, including reaching No. 1 in the rankings and a pair of Olympic singles gold medals, he never was able to leave Melbourne with the trophy, finishing as the runner-up five times.

When Murray eventually succumbed to his weariness — not to mention Bautista Agut — the arena speakers blared Queen's "We are the Champions," with its fitting line: "And we'll keep on fighting 'til the end."

If this was, indeed, the end, Murray did just that.

"I'd be OK," he said, "with that being my last match." q

Trump to congratulate Clemson for its perfect season

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump paid tribute to college football champion Clemson for winning the national championship at a White House ceremony Monday evening.

Trump said he even paid for their meal of "American fast food" because of the

partial government shutdown. He did not disclose the tab.

"We went off and we ordered American fast food, paid for by me.

Lots of hamburgers, lots of pizza," Trump said after returning to the White House from a trip to New Orleans. "I think they'd like it better than anything we could give."

"We have some very large people that like eating, so I think we're going to have a little fun," said the president, a fast food-lover himself.

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said much of the staff that works in the White House residence has been furloughed due to the shutdown, "so the president is personally paying for the event to be catered

with some of everyone's favorite fast foods."

An impressive — and highly unusual for the White House — smorgasbord greeted the players in the East Room. Silver trays held stacks of wrapped burgers from Wendy's and boxed burgers from McDonald's, including Big Macs. White House paper cups bearing the presidential seal held

the fries.

Pizzas, some topped with olives and tomatoes, also were on the menu. Silver bowls held the condiments and stacks of white china plates sat nearby.

The Clemson team's visit is its second since Trump took office. The Tigers last visited in June 2017 after their championship run the previous season. □

Saints rally past Eagles 20-14, will host NFC title game

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — When the New Orleans Saints finally found their rhythm, they marched one step closer to the Super Bowl. Using a dominant ball-control offense and a few gambles that paid off, the Saints got two touchdown passes from Drew Brees and two interceptions from Marcus Lattimore in a 20-14 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Brees took the Saints on scoring drives of 92, 79 and 67 yards after falling behind 14-0. Lattimore clinched it when Nick Foles' pass from the Saints 27 deflected off usually sure-handed receiver Alshon Jeffery with about two minutes remaining. A couple dozen Saints players surged off the sideline toward the end zone in celebration, while Jeffery fell face-first to the turf in agony.

"We were real calm and poised and we knew we were going to get things done," Brees said.

New Orleans (14-3) will host the NFC title game next week against the Rams (13-4). Los Angeles, which fell 45-35 at the Superdome in November, will try again next week, with the winner going to the Super Bowl. The Saints' win finished off a sweep of the divisional round by teams coming off byes.

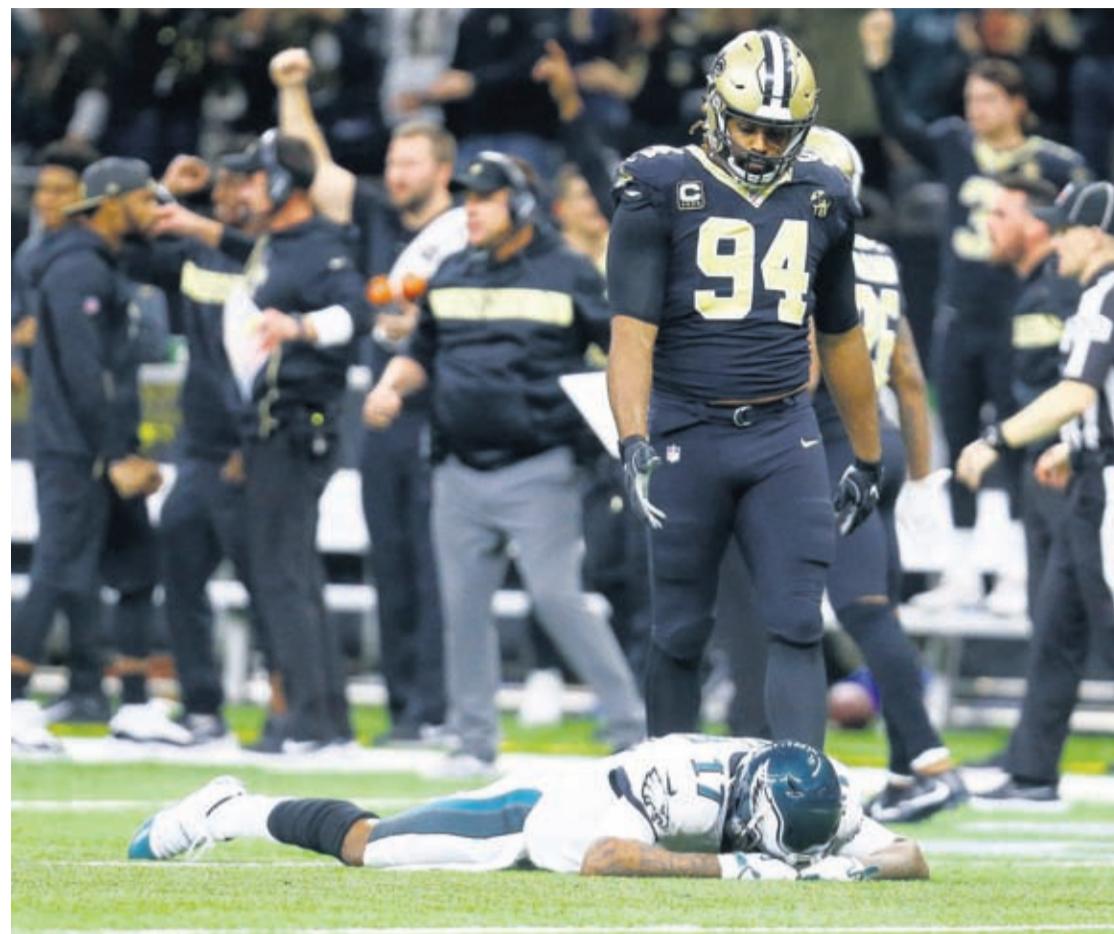
Wil Lutz added two field goals for the Saints, who last got this far in 2009, when they won the Super Bowl. Philadelphia (10-8) will not repeat as NFL champion; no team has done so since the 2004 Patriots.

"We were going down to win, but I just felt like we beat ourselves, honestly," Jeffery said. "Hats off to those guys."

Eagles coach Doug Pederson thought his team was on its way on that final drive to pulling off another stunning comeback win.

"It just felt like the momentum at that point was in our favor," he said. "It's been that way all season, and we felt like that sort of magic was going to continue."

This was really two games



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Alshon Jeffery (17) lies on the turf in front of New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan (94) after the Saints intercepted a pass in the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. The Saints won 20-14.

Associated Press

in one. Philly scored on its first two drives as the Saints could do virtually nothing right.

"Listen, they got off to a fast start, they're a great team," Brees said. "Nick Foles has done a phenomenal job for them. We knew it was going to be different than last time."

After that opening period, it was all New Orleans, yet the resilient Eagles kept it close enough that when Lutz missed a 52-yard field goal with 2:58 remaining, they were only one-score behind.

Foles, the hero of last year's Super Bowl run, got them in position for yet another late winning score — just like last week at Chicago and last February against New England for the championship. Then, Jeffery couldn't handle a second-down pass, and it was over.

"That's a great championship team," Saints coach Sean Payton said of the Eagles. "We remained confident."

Brees had 2-yard touchdown passes to rookie Keith Kirkwood and All-Pro wideout Michael Thomas, who had 12 receptions for

a franchise playoff-record 171 yards.

Thomas' touchdown capped an 18-play, 92-yard drive in which the Saints actually covered more than 100 yards because of penalties. It lasted 11½ minutes.

"What you saw from him today is what I see every day in practice," Brees said of Thomas. "He's a big-time player who wants to be the guy to make plays."

Philadelphia had the ball for more than nine minutes in the first quarter, after which the Eagles had the ball about 13 minutes and never scored.

New Orleans, which routed Philadelphia 48-7 in November, gambled on its first play — and lost. Brees was a bit short on a deep pass to Ted Ginn Jr., and it was picked off by Cre'Von LeBlanc, one of several Eagles backups being used in the secondary due to injuries during the regular season.

"I just think we had to find our rhythm," Brees said. "I tried to take a shot on the first play. Unfortunately, that didn't work."

After the first quarter, though, a lot worked for

New Orleans.

Foles completed all five throws on a 76-yard drive capped by Jordan Matthews' 37-yard TD catch. The Eagles, who quickly fell behind 17-0 in that previous Superdome loss, suddenly led 7-0.

Not long after, a 75-yard drive highlighted by a 30-yard pass to Jeffery ended with Foles' short leap over the goal line for a 14-0 edge.

Indeed, the visitors were in control until Lattimore picked off Foles' deep throw to Zach Ertz. The Saints showed plenty of moxie on their 79-yard march to a touchdown, faking a punt at their 30, with Taysom Hill running 4 yards for a first down. They also went on fourth-and-goal from the 2, and Philadelphia's rapidly depleting defense surrendered Kirkwood's 2-yard touchdown.

"When you just get that in guys' minds that we're going to be aggressive, that we're going to play to win, it allows guys to relax and to cut loose," Brees said.

With Brees finding the range and his receivers finding loads of room to roam,

New Orleans crept to 14-10 at halftime on Lutz's 45-yard field goal.

UGLY START

Maybe the Saints were rusty after their wild-card bye, but they got two first downs, including one by penalty, gained 17 yards, and Brees threw an interception and had a fumble that was recovered by teammate Ryan Ramczyk in the opening period. Meanwhile, Philly gained 153 yards and scored two TDs, and Foles went 8 of 9 for 113.

But Foles was intercepted by Lattimore early in the second quarter, and the Saints finally got going.

NUMBERS

Brees, who turns 40 Tuesday, finished 28 for 38 despite the awful start, throwing for 301 yards. Aside from Thomas, who was targeted 16 times — he led the NFL with 125 catches — no one caught more than four passes for New Orleans. Alvin Kamara had four for 35 yards and also rushed for 71 yards. Mark Ingram added 53 yards on the ground as the Saints outrushed the Eagles 137-49. New Orleans is 6-0 at home in the playoffs with Payton and Brees. Foles was 18 for 31 for 201 yards. Jeffery had five catches for a team-leading 63 yards before the game-sealing drop.

INJURIES

In a span of three plays, two starters were hurt and needed to be carted off. First, Saints defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins went down midway in the first quarter, unable to put any weight on his left foot. Two plays later, Eagles right guard Brandon Brooks hurt his right leg and departed. Several Saints players said they would be playing for Rankins the rest of the way because his season was done.

Philly also lost DB Rasul Douglas in the second quarter to an ankle injury, but he was back in the second half. DLs Fletcher Cox, an All-Pro, and Michael Bennett also were sidelined at times before returning. In the fourth quarter, left tackle Jason Peters left. □

Curry hits 11 3s, scores 48 points, Warriors beat Mavs

By The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 48 points, making 11 3-pointers, and the Golden State Warriors held off the Dallas Mavericks 119-114 on Sunday night.

Kevin Durant added 28 points and Klay Thompson had nine of his 16 in the fourth quarter.

Curry's 11th 3-pointer — tying a season high — gave the Warriors a 117-114 lead. Draymond Green blocked Jalen Brunson's drive at the other end and secured the loose ball. The Mavericks forced a miss, but Harrison Barnes turned the ball over in the frontcourt with 5 seconds left. Curry sealed the game with free throws.

Luka Doncic scored 26 points for Dallas and Barnes had 22. Brunson had 12 off the bench in 30 minutes, in place of the injured J.J. Barea and Dennis Smith Jr. **MAGIC 116, ROCKETS 109**

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Nikola Vucevic and Aaron Gordon each scored 22 points and Orlando took advantage of James Harden's awful 3-point shooting to beat Houston.

Harden scored 38 points to push his run of 30-point games to 16, but was 1 of 17 from 3-point range to tie Damon Stoudamire's NBA record for misses in a game. Stoudamire was 5 for 21 from 3-point range

for Portland against Golden State on April 15, 2005. Harden was 11 of 32 overall from the field, made 15 of 16 free throws and had 12 assists and nine rebounds. Evan Fournier and Terrence Ross each had 17 points for Orlando. The Magic were coming off a 105-103 home victory over Boston on Saturday night.

Austin Rivers scored 25 points, and Clint Capela had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Houston. The Rockets lost for only the fourth time in their last 17 games.

RAPTORS 140, WIZARDS 138, 2OT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Serge Ibaka hit a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in the second overtime and Toronto outlasted Washington for its fifth straight victory.

The Raptors blew a 23-point lead before outlasting the Wizards. Kawhi Leonard led Toronto with 41 points and 11 rebounds, and Pascal Siakim had 24 points and a career-high 19 rebounds. Bradley Beal had his second triple-double of the season for Washington, finishing with season highs of 43 points and 15 rebounds and adding 10 assists. Otto Porter had 27 points, and Trevor Ariza narrowly missed his second career triple-double with 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

NUGGETS 116, TRAIL BLAZ-

ERS 113

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic scored a season-high 40 points, Jamal Murray fought through a bloody lip to add 24 and Denver beat Portland.

Jokic finished a point off his career high. He added 10 rebounds and eight assists, just missing his sixth-triple double of the season. Murray's lip was bloodied when he took an elbow to the mouth from Jusuf Nurkic on a drive to the basket early in the third quarter.

Denver rebounded from a loss at Phoenix on Saturday night for its 12th home win in a row.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 26 points, and CJ McCollum had 18 points.

CAVALIERS 101, LAKERS 95

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cedi Osman scored 20 points, Collin Sexton added 17 and Cleveland beat Los Angeles to end a 12-game losing streak.

Tristan Thompson had 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Alec Burks had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Kyle Kuzma had 29 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers. They have lost two straight and five of seven. Los Angeles was 7 for 34 on 3-pointers.

BUCKS 133, HAWKS 114

ATLANTA (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Eric Bledsoe added 24 points and 10 assists, and



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) goes up to shoot against Dallas Mavericks guard Jalen Brunson (13) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Dallas.

Associated Press

Milwaukee won in coach Mike Budenholzer's return to Atlanta.

Khris Middleton finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds to help the Bucks improve to 30-12, second-best in the NBA. Coming off a loss at Washington that Antetokounmpo missed with injuries, Milwaukee is 12-0 following a defeat and remained the league's only team not to drop consecutive games.

Budenholzer made his first appearance at State Farm

Arena since leaving the Hawks after last season. Trae Young led Atlanta with 26 points.

76ERS 108, KNICKS 105

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben Simmons had 20 points, 22 rebounds and nine assists, and Joel Embiid scored 26 points to help Philadelphia beat New York.

New York's Emmanuel Mudiay missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Kevin Knox scored 31 points for the Knicks. They have lost four straight and 19 of 22. □

Peterhansel cuts Al-Attiyah lead of Dakar Rally to 29mins



Driver Stephane Peterhansel, of France, and co-driver David Castera, of France, race their Mini during the stage seven of the Dakar Rally in San Juan de Marcona, Peru, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

LIMA, Peru (AP) — French driver Stephane Peterhansel and British rider Sam Sunderland won their second stages at the Dakar Rally and moved back into position to threaten for the overall lead on Monday. But Peterhansel, back up to second overall, believed he will need luck to catch Nasser Al-Attiyah, who has a 29-minute margin with effectively two stages to go. "He's doing really well and has made no mistakes so far," Peterhansel, the 13-

time Dakar champion, said of Al-Attiyah, a two-time winner.

Al-Attiyah suffered a rear wheel puncture 10 kilometers from the finish but kept driving to avoid losing time changing the tire, which was stripped to the rim.

Peterhansel and co-driver David Castera suffered bad whiplash after a dune jump which also damaged the bonnet. But he still dominated the 323-kilometer, four-hour loop stage around San Juan de Mar-

cona, pulling away from and holding off Nani Roma about a third of the way in. Sebastien Loeb, who won the previous two stages to be second overall, suffered an electrical problem only three kilometers in. The cutouts continued and he lost 40 minutes. He cut it to 28 minutes by the finish but, overall, dropped to nearly an hour behind Al-Attiyah in fourth. "It's quite demoralizing," Loeb said. "We'll see what we can fight for in the coming days." □

Foligno, Bobrovsky lead Blue Jackets past Rangers 7-5

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Nick Foligno scored twice, Sergei Bobrovsky returned from a team suspension and stopped 22 shots and the Columbus Blue Jackets held off a late surge and defeated the New York Rangers 7-5 Sunday night. Cam Atkinson and Artemi Panarin each had a goal and an assist, Ryan Murray had two assists and nine other players picked up points in the offensive explosion for Columbus. But, two goals by the Rangers late in the third period turned it into a closer game.

The Blue Jackets have won four of the last five, despite being terrible on the power play. They managed the wild victory over the Rangers despite coming up empty on five power plays. Mats Zuccarello had two goals, and Ryan Strome, Chris Kreider and Jimmy Vesey also scored for the Rangers. Alexander Georgiev, spelling starter Henrik Lundqvist on the second night of a back-to-back, had 33 saves. New York has lost six of its last seven games.

Anthony Duclair, Lukas Sedlak and David Savard also scored for the Blue Jackets, and Bobrovsky — who had

been benched for Thursday's game for violating a team policy and didn't play in Saturday's overtime win over Washington — wasn't terrific, but held off the Rangers after they pulled the goalie for a sixth skater late in the game.

ISLANDERS 5, LIGHTNING 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Casey Cizikas and Cal Clutterbuck each had a goal and an assist, Thomas Greiss stopped 38 shots, and New York beat league-leading Tampa Bay.

Brock Nelson, rookie Devon Toews and Josh Bailey also scored as New York had three goals in the opening five minutes and went on to get their 11th win in 14 games. Matt Martin had two assists to give each player on the Islanders' fourth line two points.

Ryan McDonagh had a goal and Andrei Vasilevskiy finished with 23 saves for Tampa Bay, which was 18-1-1 in its previous 20. The Lightning — the NHL leaders in wins (35), points (72) and road wins (16) — lost in regulation for just the ninth time this season, but second in the last five games.

JETS 4, DUCKS 3, OT

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Bryan Little scored at 4:49 of overtime as Winnipeg beat Anaheim and

extended the Ducks' losing streak to a franchise-record 11 games. Blake Wheeler, Patrik Laine and Ben Chiarot also scored and Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves to help the Jets improve to 5-2-0 in their last seven games. They have won four straight at home.

Brian Gibbons, Rickard Rakell and Andrew Cogliano scored and John Gibson stopped 30 shots for the Ducks. They are 0-7-4 during the skid.

HURRICANES 6, PREDATORS 3

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Sebastian Aho had three goals and an assist to lead Carolina past Nashville.

JUSTIN WILLIAMS, SAKU MAENALANEN AND LUCAS WALLMARK ALSO SCORED FOR CAROLINA, WHICH WON FOR THE SEVENTH TIME IN EIGHT GAMES AND EARNED ITS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY AT HOME. MICHEAL FERLAND HAD TWO ASSISTS. NASHVILLE, WHICH HAD EARNED AT LEAST A POINT IN SEVEN STRAIGHT GAMES, GOT TWO GOALS FROM FILIP FORSBERG AND ANOTHER FROM COLTON SISSENS. GOALTENDER PEKKA RINNE WAS CHASED IN THE SECOND PERIOD.

CANUCKS 5, PANTHERS 1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Loui Eriksson had a goal and two assists as Vancouver dealt Florida its sixth straight loss.

10. □



Columbus Blue Jackets' Sergei Bobrovsky, left, of Russia, makes a save in front of teammate Scott Harrington, center, and New York Rangers' Vladislav Namestnikov, also of Russia, during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

Ben Hutton, Markus Granlund, Brock Boeser and Jay Beagle also scored for Vancouver. Jacob Markstrom stopped 23 shots.

Frank Vatrano scored for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo had 31 saves.

FLAMES 7, COYOTES 1

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Mark Giordano had two goals and an assist in his 800th career game and Calgary routed Arizona. Matthew Tkachuk scored two goals, and Sean Monahan, Johnny Gaudreau and Sam Bennett also scored for Calgary, which has won five straight and improved to 8-1-1 in its last 10. □

4-time Asian champion runner tests positive for steroid



In this Friday, May 9, 2014 file photo, Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain gestures after winning the 400m hurdles at the IAAF Diamond League in the Qatari capital Doha.

MONACO (AP) — Four-time Asian Games champion Kemi Adekoya has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for an anabolic steroid.

The Athletics Integrity Unit said Monday a "notice of allegation" was sent to Adekoya, a Nigerian-born runner who switched allegiance to Bahrain.

The AIU said on its website the 25-year-old Adekoya tested positive for stanozolol — the steroid sprinter Ben Johnson used at the 1988 Seoul Olympics — in

November.

Last August at the Asian Games, she took gold in the 400-meter hurdles and 4x400 mixed relay.

Adekoya switched to Bahrain before the 2014 Asian Games and won the 400 and 400 hurdles. In 2016, she was world indoor champion in the 400, and competed in the 400 at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Also Monday, the AIU imposed a two-year ban on Kenyan distance runner Lucy Kabuu for a positive

test for morphine. Kabuu had her results stripped from April to August, including victory at the Milan Marathon, and is banned through July 2020. She still ranks in the top-30 all-time list in women's marathon for a winning run in Dubai in 2012. A 10,000-meter specialist on the track, Kabuu was the 2006 Commonwealth Games champion and represented Kenya at the 2004 Athens Olympics and 2008 Beijing Olympics, placing fifth. □

Sooners QB, A's pick Kyler Murray declares for NFL draft

By CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

Kyler Murray, the first-round Major League Baseball draft pick and Heisman Trophy-winning Oklahoma quarterback, declared himself eligible for the NFL draft on Monday.

Murray announced his decision in a tweet, ending his brief and storied college career. What's next for the Murray is not yet known.

The Oakland Athletics made the speedy outfielder the ninth overall selection last June and agreed to \$4.66 million signing bonus. The A's agreed to let him continue playing football, and he made the most of it by winning the Heisman in his only season as a starter for the Sooners. He passed for 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns and ran for 1,001 yards and another 12 scores, posting the second-best passer efficiency rating in FBS history.

As Murray dominated, his draft stock improved. Jim Callis, a senior writer on MLB.com, said the A's couldn't have foreseen that Murray would be a potential first-round NFL

draft pick because of his size. Listed at 5-10 and 195 pounds, Murray would be a small quarterback in the NFL by any standard.

"The primary risk was, what if he gets hurt on the football field?" Callis said, recalling his conversations with scouts before the season. "I don't think anybody was saying he could be an NFL first-round pick."

Once the NFL emerged as a potential option for Murray, the A's took action. Representatives of the A's and Major League Baseball met Sunday with Murray, and the possibility existed that Oakland could offer more money by putting him on the 40-man major league roster.

Even with the A's efforts, Murray would have a shot at a bigger payday sooner in football and he wouldn't have to go to the minor leagues.

Callis and other observers say it is very unlikely Murray will be able to play both sports because he's a quarterback. Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders pulled it off, but Jackson was an outfielder and a running



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, Oakland Athletics draft pick Kyler Murray looks on before a baseball game between the Athletics and the Los Angeles Angels in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

back and Sanders was an outfielder and cornerback.

"This isn't Bo Jackson showing up and here, we'll pitch you the ball and you outrun everybody, or Deion Sanders helicoptering in and his great speed, coverage skills," Callis said. "When you're a quarterback, you have to put in hours and hours of study running an offense. ... You can't play both sports when you're a quarterback. I think if he wants to play quarterback, which appears to be his greatest love, there can't

be any question that he's 100 percent football."

Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said in November that if anyone could play both sports, it's Murray.

"I don't want to put it past him," Riley said. "A lot of people would say he can't do what he's done right now — how well he performed for our baseball group here this spring, and how well he's played here for us. So there's certainly some different dynamics with it. Obviously the fact that he would want to play

quarterback, if he chooses the football route, is a little different than Deion or Bo or some of those guys. But he athletically is so gifted and can transition between the two." The NFL scouting combine is in late February and early March and could intersect with his spring training — major league camp starts in mid-February and minor league camp begins in early March. If Murray wanted to participate in the combine, the A's would need to allow it and it would need to be reflected on his contract.

Murray's road to his NFL draft choice was a winding one from his prep days in suburban Dallas. After a disappointing freshman season in football at Texas A&M in 2015, he transferred to Oklahoma. He sat out a year because of transfer rules, then was the backup during Baker Mayfield's Heisman-winning 2017 season. Murray then had an impressive enough baseball season in 2018 to draw the A's attention. Callis said Murray is somewhat like a faster version of outfielder Andrew McCutchen. □

NFL LAUNCHES

Continued from Page 17

We really took the time to meet with and talk to advocates and community leaders and to decide the most important aspects to focus on under the broad social justice umbrella." The league's financial commitment in 2018 was \$8.5 million, plus an additional \$2 million for NFL Foundation grants for clubs, former players and active players. For the 2019 fiscal year, that will increase to \$12 million overall. But those figures don't include the funds raised collaboratively by clubs and players as part of the social justice matching funds program each club has established.

Former player and players association president Troy Vincent, now the league's pro football operations chief, emphasizes how much work has been done and continues to be done by the players. This week, he was told by Players Co-

alition co-founder Anquan Boldin that the NFL is still "on point" with its initiatives. Vincent, who grew up outside Philadelphia, didn't understand the complexities of the incarceration rate and the bail system. He notes how opening of communication between the league office and teams and communities has helped steer the social justice movement.

"What we learned is that every community knew the grass roots organizations in their respective neighborhoods that were doing the work, the daily hands-on work," Vincent said. "Working with the larger organizations gave us a national view."

Two of those larger groups, BBBSA and Operation HOPE, will receive grants. Operation HOPE will use the funds to support its nationwide work within underserved communities to equip young people and adults with financial tools

and education.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters, it's all about mentoring, and many players already serve in such a capacity. "We are the ultimate grass roots organization," says Pam Iorio, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, which has 257 agencies throughout the 50 states and has existed for 115 years. "We're all about strengthening communities one relationship at a time."

"We serve children from age 6 until young adulthood, and most of them come from very challenged backgrounds, whether family or economically challenged or neighborhood challenged."

Adds Isaacson: "If we can come in and help them through these initiatives, that is social justice." Vincent mentions the work done by two of last year's grantees, the United Negro College Fund and Dream Corps.



In this May 19, 2015, file photo, Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president of football operations, speaks at the NFL's spring meetings in San Francisco.

Associated Press

The college fund created a program aimed to alleviate the impact of mass incarceration by stressing higher education. Dream Corps performed voter registration drives.

"It all falls into social justice issues," Vincent said. "They're all broad and deep and unique to each community, but everyone wants fairness, due process and equal justice." □

Smart but nosy: Latest gadgets want to peer into our lives



Mary Mendiola wears the Owlet Band pregnancy monitor at the Owlet booth at CES International, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, in Las Vegas. The device can track fetal heart rate, kicks and contractions.

Associated Press

By RACHEL LERMAN and JOSEPH PISANI

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Many of the hottest new gadgets are also the nosiest ones. This week's CES tech show in Las Vegas was a showcase for cameras that livestream the living room, bathroom mirrors that offer beauty tips and gizmos that track the heartbeats of unborn children. All will collect some kind of data about their users, whether photos or monitor readings; how well they'll protect it and what exactly they plan do with it are the important and often unanswered questions.

These features can be useful — or at least fun — but they all open the door for companies and their workers to peek into your private life. Just this week, The Intercept reported that Ring, a security-camera company owned by Amazon, gave a variety of employees and executives access to recorded and sometimes live video footage from customers' homes.

Our data-driven age now forces you to weigh the

usefulness of a smart mirror against the risk that strangers might be watching you in your bathroom. Even if a company has your privacy in mind, things can go wrong: Hackers can break in and access sensitive data, or your ex might hold onto a video feed long after you've broken up. "It's not like all these technologies are inherently bad," says Franziska Roesner, a University of Washington computer security and privacy researcher.

But she said the industry is still trying to figure out the right balance between providing useful services and protecting people's privacy in the process.

AMAZON'S VIDEO FEEDS

Like other security devices, Ring cameras can be mounted outside the front door or inside the home; a phone app lets you see who's there. But the Intercept said the Amazon-owned company was also allowing some high-level engineers in the U.S. to view customers' video feeds, while others in the Ukraine office could view and

download any customer video file.

In a statement, Ring said some Amazon employees have access to videos that are publicly shared through the company's Neighbors app, which aims to create a network of security cameras in an area. Ring also says employees get additional video from users who consent to such sharing. At CES, Ring announced an internet-connected video doorbell that fits into the peepholes in apartment or dorm-room doors. Though it doesn't appear Ring uses facial recognition yet, records show that Amazon recently filed a patent application for a facial-recognition system involving home security cameras.

LIVING ROOM LIVESTREAM It's one thing to put cameras in our own homes, but Alarm.com wants us to also put them in other people's houses.

Alarm's Wellcam is for caretakers to watch from afar and is mostly designed to check in on aging relatives. Someone who lives elsewhere can use a smart-

phone to "peek in" anytime, says Steve Chazin, vice president of products. The notion of placing a camera in someone else's living room might feel unsettling.

Wellcam says video streaming isn't started until someone activates it from a phone and then it stops as soon as the person turns it off. Chazin says such cameras are "becoming more acceptable because loved ones want to know that the ones they care about are safe."

Just be sure you trust whom you're giving access to. You can't turn off the camera unless you unplug it.

BATHROOM CAMERAS

French company CareOS showcased a smart mirror that lets you "try on" different hairstyles. Facial recognition helps the mirror's camera know which person in a household is there, while augmented-reality technology overlays your actual image with animation on how you might look. CareOS expects hotels and salons to buy the \$20,000 Artemis mirror — potentially raising health risks and policy premiums. □

more important that personal data is protected.

"We know we don't want the whole world to know about what's going on in the bathroom," co-founder Chloe Szulzinger said.

The mirror doesn't need an internet connection to work, she said. The company says it will abide by Europe's stronger privacy rules, which took effect in May, regardless of where a customer lives. Customers can choose to share their information with CareOS, but only after they've explicitly agreed to how it will be used.

The same applies for the businesses that buy and install the mirror. Customers can choose to share some information — such as photos of the hair cut they got last time they visited a salon — but the businesses can't access anything stored in user profiles unless users specifically allow them to.

BODILY DATA

Some gadgets, meanwhile, are gathering intimate information.

Yo Sperm sells an iPhone attachment that tests and tracks sperm quality. To protect privacy, the company recommends that users turn their phones to airplane mode when using the test. The company says data stays on the phone, within the app, though there's a button for sharing details with a doctor.

Owlet, meanwhile, plans to sell a wearable device that sits over a woman's pregnant belly and tracks fetal heartbeats. The company's privacy policy says personal data gets collected. And users can choose to share heartbeat information with researchers studying stillbirths.

Though such data can be useful, Forrester analyst Fatemeh Khatibloo warns that these devices aren't regulated or governed by U.S. privacy law. She warns that companies could potentially sell data to insurance companies who could find, for instance, that someone was drinking caffeine during a pregnancy — potentially raising health risks and policy premiums. □

Stocks slip after China says exports fell in December

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock markets around the world are down Monday after China reported a drop in exports in December. Fears about the health of China's economy and the global economy overall were a major contributor to the stock market's plunge in late 2018. Technology companies and retailers are taking some of the biggest losses.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index fell 13 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,583 as of 10:10 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 87 points, or 0.4 percent, to 23,908. The Nasdaq composite retreated 59 points, or 0.9 percent, to 6,912. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks shed 6 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,441.

The S&P 500 dropped almost 20 percent from late September until the day before Christmas, partly because investors were worried that the global economy was slowing down dramatically and could go into a recession soon. Since Dec. 26, stocks have regained about half of what they lost in the downturn, but investors remain sensitive to signs of economic trouble.

CHINA TRADE: China's exports slipped in December, and exports to the U.S. fell 3.5 percent as rising tariffs and broader weakness affected the world's second-largest economy. For the year, exports from China to the U.S. rose 11.3 percent and imports from the U.S. rose just 0.7 percent. Negotiators from the U.S. and China met earlier this month for three days of trade talks, but it's not clear how much progress was made or when the two sides will meet again.

Apple lost 1.5 percent to \$149.94 while Microsoft gave up 1 percent to \$101.79 and chipmaker Texas Instruments dipped 2 percent to \$96.62. Among companies focused more on U.S. consumers, Amazon fell 1.7 percent to \$1,612 and Wynn Resorts,



Trader Tommy Kalikas works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.
Associated Press

which runs casinos in Macau, slumped 4 percent to \$109.05.

BREXIT: British stocks headed lower as lawmakers prepared to vote on Prime Minister Theresa May's deal governing Britain's planned departure from the European Union. All indications are that she will lose Tuesday's vote heavily, and the effects of that loss aren't certain. That could lead to volatility for U.K. markets, particularly the pound.

Some British legislators say the country should reconsider its decision to leave the bloc, possibly by another referendum. Others think that the country would be better off to crash out of the bloc on March 29 without a deal. The FTSE 100 index fell 0.8 percent but the pound was little changed, rising to \$1.2849 from \$1.2845.

POWERING DOWN: The largest utility in California said it will file for bankruptcy protection and its stock plunged almost 50 percent. PG&E, the parent of Pacific Gas & Electric, faces potentially colossal liabilities over deadly wildfires in 2017 and 2019. The company had announced the resignation of CEO Geisha Williams on Sunday. PG&E intends to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. It is seeking funding so it can continue providing

service to customers as it restructures its business. The stock dropped 37.5 percent to \$9.24 in heavy trading, leaving the company's market value at about \$4.8 billion. Media reports say its liabilities could reach \$30 billion.

PG&E was valued at about \$25 billion in November, when reports indicated that PG&E had a power outage around the time and place the deadly Camp Fire began. That blaze killed at least 86 people.

ALL MINE: Newmont Mining will buy Canada's Goldcorp for \$10 billion, creating the world's biggest gold miner. Miners are consoli-

dating as gold becomes more expensive to procure. Barrick Gold said it would buy Randgold for more than \$6 billion four months ago. Newmont fell 6 percent to \$32.79 and Goldcorp stock jumped 11.4 percent in Toronto.

EXTRA, EXTRA: Gannett, the publisher of USA Today, got a \$1.36 billion takeover bid from a media group with a history of taking over struggling newspapers and slashing costs. MNG Enterprises, better known as Digital First Media, disclosed its offer to Gannett Monday. Gannett said will review the proposal, which values it at \$12 per share.

The Wall Street Journal was first to report that the hedge-fund backed MNG has built up a 7.5 percent stake in Gannett, and that it has been rebuffed repeatedly by the company about a sale.

Gannett stock rocketed 16.2 percent to \$11.33.

BONDS: Bond prices edged higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.68 percent from 2.69 percent late Friday.

OVERSEAS: Germany's DAX was down 0.4 percent while the CAC 40 in France fell 0.5 percent. □



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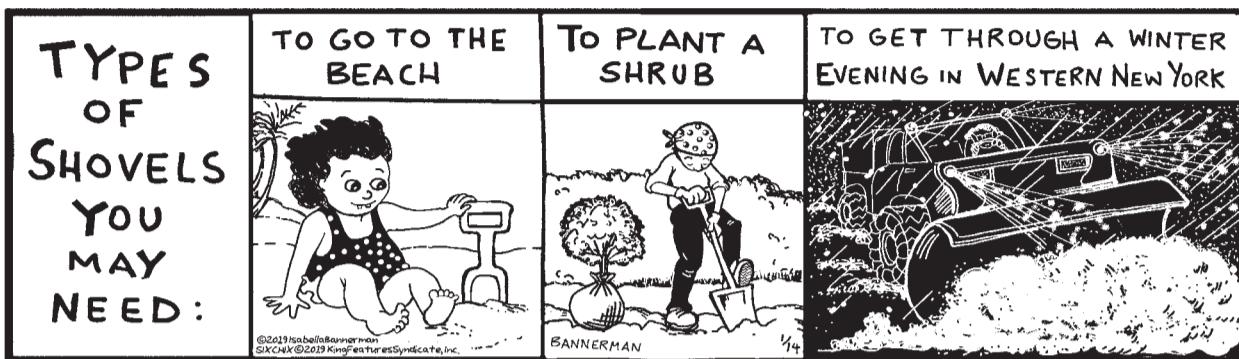
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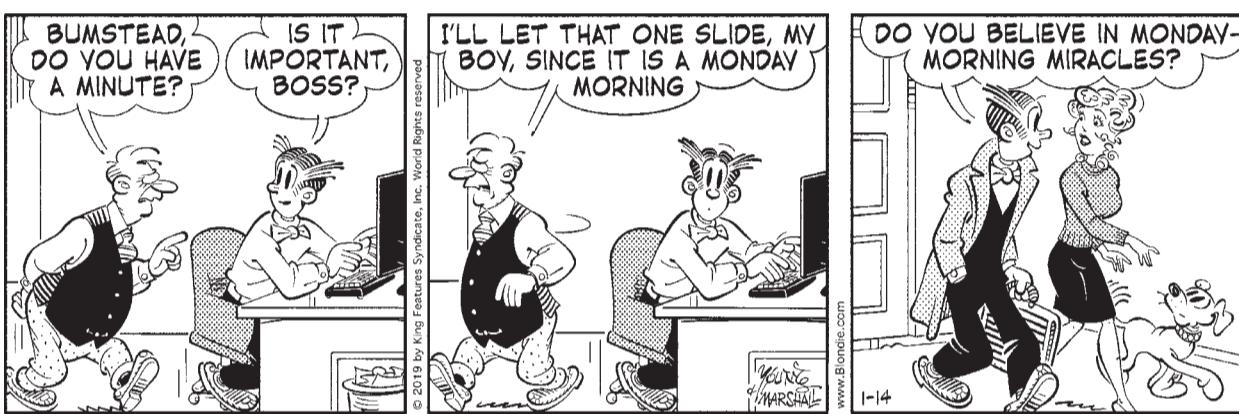
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1		8	5		2
5		9		8	
	9	4		7	
9		7	4	3	8
4			2		9
3	7	9	1		4
	5			7	8
7		1		3	
6		3	8		5

Difficulty Level ★

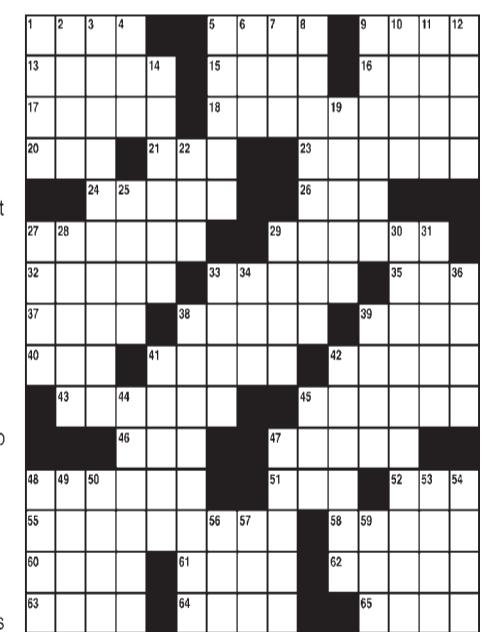
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1/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	4	3	6	1	5	7	2	9
9	7	2	3	4	8	5	1	6
1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8	3
3	1	7	9	8	6	2	5	4
6	2	4	7	5	1	3	9	8
5	8	9	4	2	3	1	6	7
4	6	1	5	7	9	8	3	2
2	3	8	1	6	4	9	7	5
7	9	5	8	3	2	6	4	1

Saturday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/14/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	M	S	A	L	T	E	R	O	P	A	L
S	P	A	T	T	O	A	D	Y	T	O	B	E
V	E	R	Y	H	O	R	S	E	H	O	E	S
P	S	I	B	E	N	T	C	E	L	T	S	S
O	V	E	N	S	J	A	R					
M	A	N	I	L	W	A	R	S	W	A	S	W
A	G	E	N	T	S	E	R	B	S	P	O	P
P	A	T	E	R	A	G	E	S	R	G	B	R
S	I	T	F	E	I	N	G	M	E	L	E	E
N	E	A	R	E	D							
D	E	F	S	U	I							
T	R	O	V	E	H	E	R	D	E	L	F	
R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	R	S	S	T	A
O	A	R	S	W	A	I	V	E	K	I	T	E
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Iceland's Northern Lights: Beautiful sight, risky drives

By EGILL BJARNASON

Associated Press

AKUREYRI, Iceland (AP) —

Police in Iceland have a warning for visitors: Beware our roads in the winter.

Spending a clear winter night under an Arctic sky lit up by spectacular streaks of color from the Northern Lights is an often-cited "bucket-list" experience among the reasons more people are visiting Iceland, especially its northern region.

The remote region on the edge of the Arctic Circle is one of the best places in the world to spot the colorful phenomenon.

But police say many foreign visitors lack the experience and expertise to handle Iceland's wintry road conditions. They are increasingly worried about visitors scanning the sky for the Northern Lights and not looking at the road, which may be icy, twisty or narrow — or all three conditions at once.

"The weather in Iceland changes every five minutes, so to speak, and road conditions change accordingly," said superintendent Johannes Sigfusson of the Akureyri Police Department, the largest in the northern region. "In a matter of minutes, a dry road can turn icy and slippery.

"The risk is compounded in the middle of the night, when an inexperienced driver is deprived of sleep and with one eye on the sky."

Of the 18 people who died in traffic crashes in Iceland in 2018, half of them were foreigners, continuing a trend that started the year before, when more foreigners than residents died for the first time on this volcanic island in the North Atlantic.

The aurora borealis, or



A tourist from Singapore photographs the Godafoss waterfall, a landmark view in northern Iceland, Dec. 16, 2018.

Northern Lights, occur when a magnetic solar wind slams into the Earth's magnetic field and causes atoms in the upper atmosphere to glow. The lights appear quite suddenly and the intensity varies — the most amazing are bright green with streaks of purple and yellow.

Northern Lights sightings depend on a mix of luck and effort. The Icelandic Met Office operates a 9-scale Northern Lights forecast every day, based on solar winds in the past three days, that pinpoints the best spots in the country each night to try to see the lights. But traveling away from city lights is most often necessary, and that has led some drivers to take hazardous mountain roads.

Police say they have encountered sleep-deprived drivers cruising into the night, as well as vehicles driving without lights on to prevent light pollution. Police say some accidents even happen on main roads, when tourists hit the brakes quickly because of a sudden Northern Lights sighting and then get hit from behind.

It doesn't help that, in Icelandic winters, the sun in Akureyri can rise as late as 11:39 a.m. and set as early as 2:43 p.m., meaning that tourists are spending most of their day driving in the dark.

Authorities note that the capital, Reykjavik, Akureyri and other areas have tourism companies that offer nightly Northern Lights bus

tours near-daily in the winter so tourists can leave the driving to professionals.

Iceland's road infrastructure also lags behind its boom in international tourism. The national Road No. 1, which runs for 1,337 kilometers (830 miles) as it connects coastal towns and villages on this volcanic island of 350,000 people, still has narrow lanes and many one-lane bridges.

Last month, an SUV carrying seven British tourists plunged off a one-lane bridge on Road No. 1 in southern Iceland, killing three people and critically injuring the others.

In the winter, tourists from warm countries — who may never have driven in snow and ice — have been more likely to get into ac-

cidents, according to the Icelandic Transport Authority.

"Driving on Icelandic winter roads it is tough. Definitely," said Jeremy Tan, a financier from Singapore who was about driving his rental car half way around Iceland. "Dark roads and strong winds are something that I am not used to."

He was parked at Godafoss, a landmark waterfall in northern Iceland, hoping that the clouds might pull the curtains on a winter Northern Lights show. The Icelandic Met Office's Northern Lights forecast for that night listed their strength as "moderate" but Tan was prepared to wait, with warm cloths and snacks for the night.

But midnight passed without any signs of green, purple or yellow dancing lights above the horizon.

The accuracy of aurora forecasting could soon improve, however.

The Chinese Polar Research Institute is opening Iceland's first-ever aurora research station in a remote valley about a half-hour drive from the northern town of Akureyri. The futuristic three-store building, set to go into operation later this year, is part of China's broad ambitions in the Arctic.

Gunnlaugur Bjornsson, astrophysicist at the University of Iceland, is among the local scientists involved in project. Speaking to The Associated Press, he said much was still unknown about the Northern Lights and the vast electromagnetic system that unleashes them. "Weather prediction is difficult. Aurora prediction is even more so," he said. "We just have to wait and see, like with the earthquakes." □

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Zegna celebrates diversity; Dolce & Gabbana go for elegance

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — By now, the two Milan Fashion Weeks dedicated to menswear have transformed themselves into platforms for co-ed shows and up-and-coming brands beyond the menswear stalwarts.

The little more than three days of previews for next fall and winter that launched Friday evening include 52 collections in 27 runway shows and 25 presentations. Eleven brands are showing mixed men's and women's collections during the less hectic week dedicated to male apparel.

While menswear tends to create less of a spectacle than the womenswear shows, the lines still carry bottom-line weight. Italian menswear registered a turnover of 9.5 billion euros last year, a 1.5 percent increase over 2017.

Here are highlights:

ZEGNA'S GLOBAL CITIZENS

Menswear fashion house Ermenegildo Zegna showed Friday evening under the cavernous arched ceilings of Milan's fascista train station, offering cups of mulled wine to warm spectators before the show.

The space in the entrance hall was replete with sym-



A model wears a creation as part of the Dolce & Gabbana men's Fall-Winter 2019-20 collection, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019.

Associated Press

bolism. Thousands of commuters and travelers rush through each day. But the hall's mezzanine was also used as a way station for thousands of migrants who had arrived by sea in the south and were making their way to northern Europe from 2013-2015. Designer Alessandro Sartori seemed to have both in mind, writing that he chose the venue as "a place of arrivals and departures, but also integration and acceptance of diversity."

The collection aimed at Sartori's vision of a "multicultural generation of global citizens" combined classic suits, sportswear and military detailing. For the traveller, the looks were finished with easy-striding footwear including Zegna's first sneaker, called Cesare. A purple suit closed slightly asymmetrically, the tight silhouette completed with a riding cap and a leather bag with Army-surplus volume. Cropped puffer jackets and rich pile hood-

ies added volume over slim trousers. An oversized plaid notched-lapel bomber jacket paired with matching cargo trousers gave a neat daytime look. Military detailing included ribbed knits, calf straps and a touch of camouflage.

DOLCE & GABBANA MAKE DANDY COMEBACK

If Dolce & Gabbana are still stinging over a backlash in China, they sought to salve it in Milan with quiet elegance.

The runway show Saturday was the brand's first major outing after being forced to cancel a Shanghai show in November amid accusations of cultural insensitivity. The pace of the Milan show was slow and determined, as designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana subbed out Millennials for millionaires.

The collection contained an array of timeless looks for the global dandy, from an American Great Gatsby, a Sicilian noble or, yes, even a Chinese tycoon. The designers put the focus on workmanship, with tailors cutting and stitching in the background.

From backstage flowed silk twill robes and pyjamas, brocade suits whose patterns were inspired by Italian cathedrals, rich velvet day coats over trousers and warm, sequined knitwear bearing geometric motifs.

Coats, jackets and trousers were expertly tailored with herringbone, Prince of Wales and hounds-tooth patterns. Looks were finished with touches like sheepskin outerwear, fringed silk scarfs or elegant umbrellas with grips carved in animal shapes.

There were some signs of the fallout from the China controversy. □

'Freefall' is entertaining, suspenseful

By OLINE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"Freefall: a Novel" (HarperCollins), by Jessica Barry "Freefall" begins as an action-packed/heart-stopping thriller as it logically and smoothly leads into the self-examination of two women estranged from each other but still united by love.

Allison Carpenter is bound for San Diego when the light plane crashes in the Colorado Rockies. Miraculously, Allison survives but she immediately knows that this was no ordinary plane accident. She believes the plane, owned by her fiance, pharmaceutical CEO Ben Gardner, was targeted

and there will be no rescue. Allison gathers up her courage and whatever supplies she thinks will help her and begins the arduous — and seemingly hopeless — trek through the frigid wilderness. Not long after Allison has escaped, the fuselage catches fire, destroying the wreckage. The authorities believe Ben and Allison are dead.

Back in Owl Creek, Maine, Allison's mother, Maggie Carpenter, is devastated by news of the plane crash. Although Maggie and Allison haven't spoken for two years, Maggie has never given up hope that she will reconcile with her only child. Their rift began with

the death of Maggie's husband — Allison's father. Despite the evidence, Maggie refuses to believe that Allison is dead and immediately begins to use her skills as a research librarian to look into her daughter's life. Maggie had no idea Allison was engaged, or that after moving to California, she had such a troubled life that at one point she was forced to live in her car. Ben seems to have been Allison's salvation.

"Freefall" smoothly moves from Allison's ordeal in the Rockies, where she is exhausted, hungry and hurt, to Maggie, consumed by grief. But Barry delves deep to show the true character

of mother and daughter, neither of whom will give up.

Allison knows that the only person she can trust is Maggie and she is determined to make her way back home. Maggie is stunned that her research into Allison's last two years shows that her daughter may have been unwittingly involved in deceit and corruption.

While "Freefall" works well as a psychological thriller, the twists are predictable and succumb to plot clichés. The story holds few surprises as it winds down to the denouement, but the strong characters do not disappoint. □



This cover image released by HarperCollins shows "Freefall," a novel by Jessica Barry.

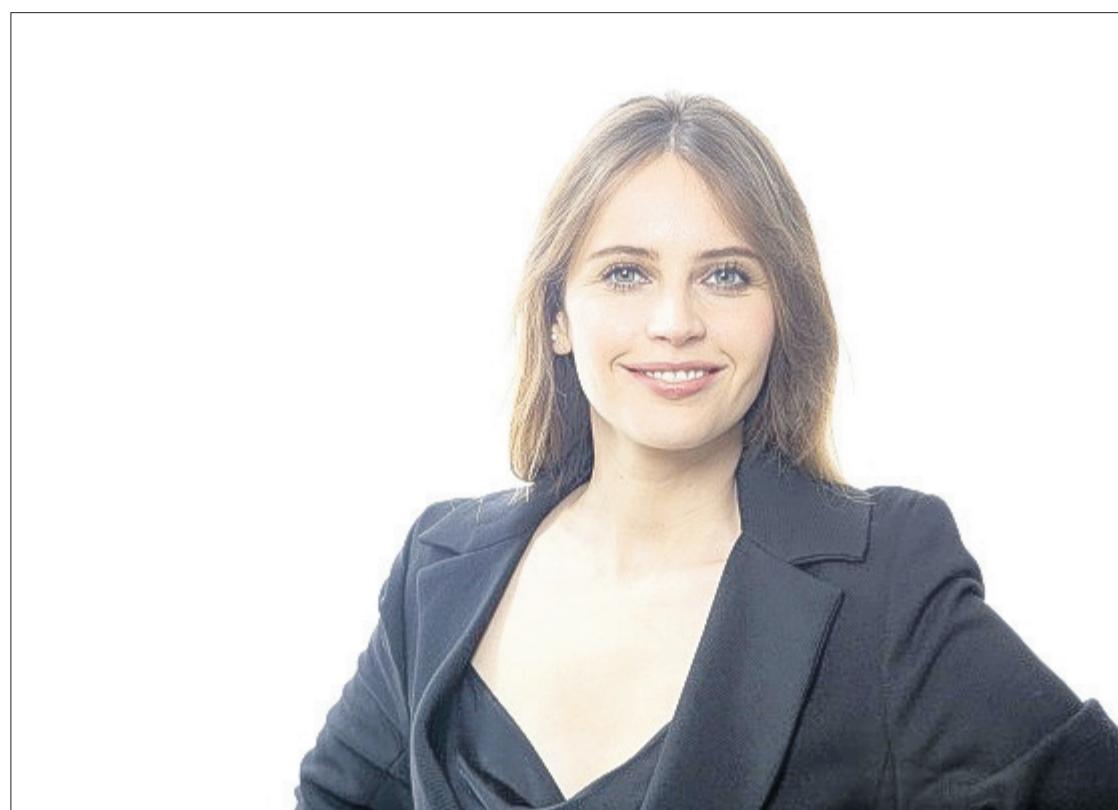
Associated Press

Felicity Jones strives to do justice to Ginsburg in film

By LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Ruth Bader Ginsburg film "On the Basis of Sex" was about to fall apart when Felicity Jones got her hands on the script. The origin story about the future Supreme Court justice written by Ginsburg's nephew Daniel Stiepleman had been in various stages of development since 2012, looking for the right star (Natalie Portman was originally attached), the right director (Mimi Leder could only do it after finishing the third season of the HBO show "The Leftovers") and the right time to finally hit go. But it was looking wobbly again and they needed an answer fast.

The British actress, fresh off the Star Wars film "Rogue One," had been looking for a project about a woman and her career and had recently become familiar with Justice Ginsburg, whose celebrity has only grown of late. And Ginsburg, who had seen Jones in her Oscar-nominated role in "The Theory of Everything," had already given her informal



In this Dec. 8, 2018 photo, actress Felicity Jones poses for a portrait on Dec. 8, 2018 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles to promote her film "On the Basis of Sex".

Associated Press

approval to cast Jones. ("I think the only thing she was nervous about was getting rid of that English accent," laughed Leder.)

Jones read it in a weekend, said yes, and, finally, the stars had aligned. The film was happening.

"I didn't take it on lightly" Jones said despite her quick answer. "It was really intimidating at first, like gosh how do I do justice to

this person?"

Ginsburg didn't have advice for Jones when they met ("She said, 'I've seen your work and I know you

can do it,'" Jones said.) But she did have one request for the filmmakers: That they would be absolutely precise in capturing the law. Can you blame her? "On the Basis of Sex," in theaters nationwide on Christmas Day, caps off a big year for Ginsburg in cinema that started with the documentary "RBG" premiering at Sundance last January and going on to become a modest box-office phenomenon.

This film is complimentary to the documentary, and focuses in on two very specific parts of Ginsburg's early days in law long before she would go on to be confirmed as an associate justice in 1993: First as one of the few female students at Harvard Law School in the mid-1950s, and then as a professor at Rutgers in the 1960s, when she started getting involved with gender discrimination cases with the American Civil Liberties Union. □

Shirley Boone, wife of Pat Boone and philanthropist, dies



In this Oct. 7, 2014 file photo, Pat Boone, right, and wife Shirley Boone arrive at Lipscomb University for the Dove Award, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Associated Press
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Shirley Boone, the longtime wife of singer Pat Boone as well as a philanthropist, has died. She was 84.

She passed away on Friday surrounded by her four daughters, Cherry, Lindy, Debby and Laury, who sang to her, Milt Suchin, Pat Boone's manager, said in a

statement. Shirley and Pat Boone had been married for 65 years. During that time, Shirley Boone helped to establish Mercy Corps, which has become an international charitable organization dedicated to addressing economic, environmental, social and political problems. She also published

writings, hosted TV shows and recorded music.

Shirley Boone is the daughter of country singer Red Foley, a country singer of the 1930s and 1940s who became a star with his recording of "Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy."

Shirley and Pat Boone had been high school sweethearts, and they married when he was 19 and rising to stardom.

In a statement to friends and family, Pat Boone wrote: "Quick bulletin, change of address:

"Dear Shirley BOONE doesn't dwell in Beverly Hills now_she's just been warmly welcomed into a beautiful new mansion in Heaven, prepared specifically for her and her husband by Jesus Himself, who said 'that where I am, you may be also.'

"Rejoice for her, she's begun her eternal life.

"She loves you too, as I do." □

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SPANISH
SAT-SUN 1:45

PG-13

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SAT-SUN 2:45 | 4:50 | 7:00

PG

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SAT-SUN 2:00 | 4:05

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**MON-FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
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SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30**

PG-13

AQUAMAN
JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD
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MON-FRI 7:50
FRI-SAT 7:50 | 10:45

CXC

**MON-FRI 6:10 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 6:10 | 9:05**

UP

**MON-FRI 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30
FRI-SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:25**

PG-13

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
RAMI MALEK | LUCY BOYNTON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 6:10 | 9:00

PG-13

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DEBORAH ANN WOLL | TAYLOR RUSSELL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 7:10 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:45

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To ovations, Hamilton's star reprises role in Puerto Rico

By DANICA COTO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Lin-Manuel Miranda reprised his lead role in the hit musical "Hamilton" to start a two-week run in Puerto Rico expected to raise millions of dollars for artists and cultural groups struggling in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

The audience giggled, hooted, clapped and tapped their feet throughout Friday's night's performance as Miranda took the stage for the first time since his last appearance in the Broadway version in July 2016, when he played the role of U.S. founding father Alexander Hamilton.

"I have never felt anything like that," he said of the crowd's energy, adding that singing the song "Hurricane" was a challenge. "It was very hard to sing that here in Puerto Rico because you know better than I what it is to survive a hurricane. I feel like I'm going back to Maria a little bit every time I sing it."

After the two-hour show, Miranda spoke with reporters, who peppered him with questions including how the White House was exploring diverting money for border wall construction from a range of accounts, including using some of the \$13.9 billion allocated to the Army Corps of Engineers after last year's deadly hurricanes and floods.

"I think that's absolutely monstrous," Miranda said



Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer and creator of the award-winning Broadway musical, Hamilton, receives a standing ovation with tears at the ending of the play's premiere held at the Santurce Fine Arts Center, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Friday, Jan. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

as he apologized that he didn't have further comment. "It's the first time I'm hearing that. I've been a little busy."

It's the first time in nine years that Miranda has performed in Puerto Rico. Opening night drew more than 1,000 people who bought tickets ranging from \$10 to \$5,000.

Among the attendees was Ron Chernow, the Pulitzer Prize winner whose biography of Alexander Hamilton inspired the musical.

He told The Associated Press that it was the most extraordinary Miranda performance he has seen.

"There was an extra passion

and pain and sadness and beauty that he brought to his character," Chernow said. "This was no ordinary performance tonight."

The crowd gave Miranda a standing ovation before the show even started, and during the curtain call he wiped away tears and wrapped himself in a large Puerto Rican flag as he briefly addressed the crowd in Spanish and English.

During the show's intermission, accountant Zoraida Alvira sat absorbed as she read the three-page synopsis since she struggles a bit with English. It was the first time she had seen a

musical and was transfixed. "Here in Puerto Rico we are not too exposed to theater, let alone musicals," she said as she praised the performance. "I didn't move, and I'm a fidgety person." Alvira, like several other Puerto Ricans who attended opening night, snapped up her ticket thanks to a lottery launched by "Hamilton" organizers who are selling 275 tickets for every performance at \$10 each. Others in the audience on Friday included musician Questlove and TV producer Shonda Rhimes.

Among those expected to attend the show in upcoming days are several federal

lawmakers visiting the U.S. territory for the weekend to learn more about reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Maria, which caused more than \$100 billion in damage when it hit on Sept. 20, 2017.

Even people who didn't have tickets showed up at the venue.

"This is a very important moment for Puerto Rico right now," said Vivian Rodriguez, a student who lives in Puerto Rico but is from New York. She noted that Friday is Hamilton's birthday, and she said Puerto Rico has suffered from what she described as its "colonial" status.

"Hamilton" was initially going to be staged at the University of Puerto Rico from Jan. 8 to 27, but producers announced in December that it was moving to the Centro de Bellas Artes Luis A. Ferre following the threat of protests by university employees upset over enrollment changes at the island's largest public university.

The change forced some people on the U.S. mainland to forego their Hamilton tickets because they were unable or could not afford to change their airline tickets to accommodate the show's new dates. Others were upset when they did not hear back from the agency responsible for reassigning new dates for previously purchased tickets. □

Big Boi, Travis Scott to join Maroon 5 in Super Bowl show

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL on Sunday ended months of uncertainty by officially announcing Maroon 5, Big Boi and Travis Scott as the performers at this year's Super Bowl halftime show.

Maroon 5 had been the widely reported halftime show act since September, but the NFL didn't confirm the band as its headliner until Sunday. The league said Maroon 5 will be joined by Big Boi, the Atlanta-based rapper from Outkast, and Scott.

Typically one of the most fiercely sought gigs in music, the Super Bowl halftime show has this year been the subject of boycott and protest. Numerous acts have turned down the NFL in support of Colin Kaepernick and other players who have taken a knee during the national anthem in protest of racial injustice. Gerald Griggs, vice president of the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP, has said the NAACP asked performers who have signed up to reconsider their participa-

tion. More than 84,000 have signed an online petition urging Maroon 5 to withdraw from the Super Bowl "until the league changes their policy and support players' constitutional right to protest."

Billboard reported that Scott, who reportedly signed on in December, only agreed to perform if the NFL made a joint donation to an organization fighting for social justice. With the NFL, Scott made a \$500,000 donation to Van Jones' Dream Corps. □



In this Sept. 16, 2017, file photo, Adam Levine of Maroon 5 performs at the Rock in Rio music festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press



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